

# CONSERVATION PLOTS GUIDE 2013





*Terry Steinwand, Director  
North Dakota Game and Fish Department*

Welcome to the 2013 Conservation Private Land Open To Sportsmen Guide. We're again excited to provide this informative booklet that features lands open to public hunting across North Dakota.

Our goal continues to be that of maintaining PLOTS acres for hunters to access, with habitat of the highest quality to attract and hold those animals we love to hunt and have become part of North Dakota's heritage. After all, it's the habitat that allows those animals to thrive on the landscape.

It's a critically important time in North Dakota as Conservation Reserve Program acres continue to decline, and what remains will be even more important for wildlife production.

The southern half of the state looked to be going into a drought coming off a relatively mild winter. Reduced CRP acres, in association with sparse moisture, made it look relatively bleak for those animals depending on grasslands for nesting, food production and recruitment into the population. But that changed relatively rapidly when the precipitation pattern took a turn. Those areas that looked sparse for habitat changed into lush expanses of grass. A crucial time for upland birds is spring and early summer. Mother Nature will still play a part in how fall hunting seasons fare, but the moisture definitely improved the odds.

It's no secret that CRP had been a major part of the Game and Fish Department's PLOTS program over the years and it will continue to play a role. But with

reductions in CRP acres, Department staff has shifted some efforts to other areas with high value habitat.

Our philosophy continues to be that the public should have the greatest opportunity possible to access and utilize those resources. Based on past surveys, the majority of hunters who access PLOTS are satisfied with their experiences. The PLOTS Guide provides one part of the puzzle in informing the sporting public which lands are accessible.

The PLOTS program continues to be a widely supported program, but it's not meant to be the only areas we hunt. Don't forget about those areas that aren't in PLOTS. Approximately 95 percent of the land in North Dakota is privately owned, which means that many animals are residing on private lands. Take advantage of PLOTS and other public hunting opportunities, but I encourage you to take the time to get to know those people in rural areas who make their living off the land.

I continue to emphasize how important it is to respect the land on which you hunt and the game you pursue. Also respect those utilizing that same area you might be hunting. We have an ongoing obligation to respect the land private landowners allow us to access, be they in the PLOTS program or not.

We continue to have great hunting and fishing opportunities in North Dakota and there are many people who are envious of what we have. Remember to respect landowners, animals, the land and other hunters. At the end of the day, you'll be rewarded for your experience.

*Terry Steinwand*



# 2014 PLOTS GUIDE COVER CONTEST



## *Any Season, Any Species*

From end-of-day hunting shots to scenic action or landscape shots, we want to feature hunter photos on the cover and elsewhere in the **2014 PLOTS Guide** that showcase the strong hunting heritage in North Dakota.

The only real guideline is that the photos must include a PLOTS sign, front-facing or silhouette.



## *Contest Prizes*

**Cover Photo:** Professionally framed PLOTS guide cover with your photo on it!

**Top 3 runnersup:** Framed photo enlargements.

## *Contest Rules and Entry Information*

1. By submitting digital images, photographer retains rights but grants North Dakota Game and Fish Department permission to use on the 2014 PLOTS Guide cover, elsewhere in the PLOTS guide, and also on the Game and Fish website and in *North Dakota OUTDOORS* magazine.
2. Submit photos via email to: [plotsphotos@nd.gov](mailto:plotsphotos@nd.gov). Submit only one photo per email and no more than 5 per individual overall.
3. Photographers can submit lower resolution digital files but Game and Fish will need a high resolution original copy (minimum 3 MB) if photo is chosen for publication.
4. Contest entrants must include name, address, phone number and email with photo submission. Also brief information about the hunt, and if there are identifiable people in the photo, include names.

**Contest submission deadline is April 30, 2014**

Log on to the Game and Fish website at [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov) for more information or to submit photos.

## **NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT**

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Photo by Kevin Kading

## Private Land Initiative

The Department's mission is to protect, conserve, and enhance fish and wildlife populations and their habitats for sustained public use. The **Private Land Initiative (PLI)** is the Department's overall mechanism for applying this mission onto the private landscape. **The PLI has three main goals:**

- Conserve habitat for fish and wildlife populations.
- Provide landowners interested in wildlife conservation with cost-sharing assistance for developing and protecting wildlife habitat.
- Provide the public with opportunities to access fish and wildlife resources on private land.

**Conservation PLOTS (Private Land Open To Sportsmen) Agreements** are one of the ways the Department accomplishes this mission. Within the PLOTS program there are several types of programs that producers can choose from:

The **Habitat Plot program** is designed to be a multi-year rental program of three to six years or 10-20 year agreements that

help to create, enhance or protect wildlife habitat while providing public access.

The **Food Plot program** is a short-term program that provides a wildlife food source and public access.

The **Private Forest Conservation program** is a multi-year rental program that works to provide protection and enhancement in unique forested systems and also provides for public access.

The **CRP Cost-Sharing program** provides assistance with establishment and management costs associated with the CRP in exchange for public access. The objective of this program is to improve public access in areas where it has traditionally been limited.

The **WRP (Wetlands Reserve program) Incentive** is a partnership program between NRCS and the Department, which provides additional incentives to producers enrolling their land in WRP. The primary purpose of WRP Incentive is to restore, protect or enhance wetlands and associated uplands, as well as provide for public access.

The **WRAAP (Waterfowl Rest Area Access program)** is designed to gain waterfowl hunting opportunities for the public in grain fields and small sloughs around waterfowl staging areas.

The **Tree Planting Cost-Sharing program** provides assistance with the establishment costs of tree plantings. The goal of this program is to enhance wildlife habitat and conservation on private land and provide public access.

The **Working Lands program (WLP)** is a short-term program based on the wildlife value of lands actively farmed or ranched while providing public access. The current farming or ranching management practices of the lands are evaluated by biologists, who place values on components such as conservation practices, good stewardship and quality of hunting habitat and public access.

The Department has an online version of the PLOTS guide that will be updated as often as possible. You can find the updated online version of the guide at <http://gf.nd.gov/maps/plots.html> or <http://gf.nd.gov/maps/map-interactive.html>.

The Department also works with other state and federal agencies, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, Natural Resources Trust, Mule Deer Foundation, Pheasants for the Future and local wildlife clubs to carry out wildlife habitat projects on some PLOTS.



# Public Use Regulations for Private Land Open To Sportsmen (PLOTS) Lands

From its inception over a decade ago, the goal of the PLOTS program was to provide the public with walk-in access for hunting on private land. The Department, through agreement, is the lessee for hunting access on lands enrolled in the PLOTS program. Activities such as horseback riding, camping, baiting, driving ATVs or snowmobiles, dog training, and many others were not regulated by the PLOTS program agreement.

In recent years, the Department has received numerous comments and concerns from landowners enrolled in the program and hunters who utilize these areas about the increase in non-hunting related activities occurring on PLOTS tracts. We have also received comments from landowners and hunters during our PLOTS survey suggesting the Department publish "clear regulations and rules" for the PLOTS program. Because of the increased interest and usage of PLOTS, increased expectations by hunters, and increased concerns from private landowners, we felt it was time to establish specific public use regulations to govern public use on PLOTS.

By establishing these regulations, the Department can better fulfill its responsibility to the private landowners and help protect the property they've enrolled in the program. In addition to protecting the property enrolled in the program, the regulations will provide clarity to the hunting public. Law enforcement officers will be in a better position to enforce activities on PLOTS property.

These regulations became effective October 1, 2010.

## ARTICLE 30-04 FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

**30-04-08-01. Public access and use.** All Private Land Open To Sportsmen (PLOTS) property is open only for public walk-in access for the purpose of hunting within legal hunting seasons, or as signed. All other activities require written permission from the property owner. As used in this section PLOTS is private land enrolled by the Department for purposes of hunting as established under North Dakota Century Code chapter 20.1-02-27. Walk-in access for purposes of this section is defined as an individual travelling by foot with any legal weapon, equipment, accessories, and provisions for the purposes of hunting. Hunting weapons, equipment, accessories, or provisions may not be left unattended on PLOTS without written permission of the property owner. Any person who violates this section is guilty of a noncriminal offense and shall pay a one hundred dollar fee.

## Summary

The public use regulations state that any activity, other than walk-in hunting, will not be allowed on PLOTS without **written permission from the landowner**. If any weapons, equipment, accessories or provisions are used on PLOTS by hunters, they may not be left unattended and must be taken with when they leave the area. These regulations will be enforced year round but will not restrict the landowner from participating in these activities on their own property enrolled in PLOTS. These regulations will not restrict the landowner, tenant, family, hired hand, or other authorized operators from conducting normal farming or ranching activities as authorized in the PLOTS contract on their own property enrolled in PLOTS. The public use regulations are intended to protect property enrolled in PLOTS from potentially damaging activities.



# Public Use Regulations *(continued)*

## Frequently Asked Questions

- Q.** *Can I drive on PLOTS to set out decoys or retrieve my deer?*
- A.** No. PLOTS are for walk-in hunting only. Some PLOTS are marked with a green sign indicating the landowner has agreed to allow vehicle access on cropland for waterfowl hunting only. These special areas are identified with green "Attention Waterfowl Hunters" signs and the details have been worked out with the landowner as part of the agreement ahead of time. If a hunter wishes to drive out to retrieve a deer on PLOTS, he must obtain permission from the landowner.
- Q.** *Can PLOTS be used for other activities? (Camping, horseback riding, dog training, paintball shooting, ATV/snowmobile riding etc.)*
- A.** No, unless the individual obtains written permission from the landowner.
- Q.** *Can I place bait on PLOTS?*
- A.** The rule states: If any weapons, equipment, accessories are used by hunters they may not be left unattended and must be taken with when the hunter leaves the area. This includes, but not limited to,

guns, blinds, stands, baits, scents, decoys other equipment etc.)

- Q.** *Can I use PLOTS any time of the year?*
- A.** Again, PLOTS are for walk-in hunting only during legal hunting seasons. If you are not participating in a hunting related activity, you should contact the landowner for permission.
- Q.** *Can I set up my tree stand and leave it on a PLOTS tract so I am assured I will have a place to hunt?*
- A.** A hunter may set up a tree stand or blind on PLOTS but it must be taken with when he leaves and it cannot be left unattended unless permission is obtained from the landowner.



## Other Laws Governing PLOTS Use

**20.1-03-42. Guiding on prohibited lands.** A person may not act as a hunting guide or hunting outfitter on land the person knows is owned by the state unless the appropriate state agency permits or authorizes the guiding or outfitting, on private land enrolled by the department for purposes of hunting, on land in which the department pays in lieu of taxes, on federal lands without being authorized or permitted as required by the appropriate federal agency, or on private lands posted against hunting or trespassing without first informing and obtaining permission from the landowner to conduct guiding or outfitting on the land. If the landowner did not grant the permission in writing, there is a presumption that the permission did not exist.

**20.1-08-04.9. Small game proclamation.** The governor, in the governor's proclamation, shall prohibit a nonresident from hunting for the first seven days of the pheasant season on land owned or private land enrolled by the department for the purposes of hunting or on land for which the department pays in lieu of tax payments.

©TOM ROSTER'S 2013 NONTOXIC SHOT LETHALITY TABLE©							
Proven Nontoxic Shot Loads For Waterfowl & Upland Game Birds <sup>1</sup> Load Velocity: 1,225 - 1,600 FPS	Typical Shooting Range of Activity (Yards)	Most Effective Nontoxic Shot Size(s) For Birds Listed Under ACTIVITY At The Distances Listed In The Second Column	Minimum Load Weight (Ounces)	Minimum Pellet Hits Needed on Lethal Areas for Clean Kills	Minimum Pattern Count Needed at Any Distance for Clean Kills (# of Pellets in 30" Circle)	Most Effective Choke(s) (Given in Lead Shot Choke Designations)	NOTE: The pellets in the steel shot loads listed in this table were traditional, highly spherical ball-shaped pellets of ~ 7.88 g/cc density and 90-95 DPH hardness. The HEVI-Shot pellets were 0.022 g/cc density and slightly harder than traditional steel pellets.
<b>ACTIVITY</b>							
Large Geese At Long Range	50-65	Steel BBB to T	1-1/4	1-2	50-55	Improved Modified	
Giant, Western, Atlantic and Interior Canadas	50-70	HEVI-Shot 2 to B	1-1/2	1-2	50-55	Improved Modified, Full	
Large Geese Over Decoys	35-50	Steel BB to BBB	1-1/4	1-2	50-55	Improved Cylinder, Modified	
	35-50	HEVI-Shot 2 to B	1-1/2	1-2	50-55	Improved Cylinder, Modified	
Medium/Small Geese Long Range	50-65	Steel BB to BBB	1-1/4	1-2	60-65	Improved Modified	
Snow, White-fronted, Lesser Canadas	50-65	HEVI-Shot 2	1-1/2	1-2	60-65	Improved Modified, Full	
Medium/Small Geese Over Decoys	35-50	Steel 2 to BB	1-1/8	1-2	60-65	Light Modified, Modified	
	35-50	HEVI-Shot 4 to 2	1-1/4	1-2	60-65	Improved Cylinder, Modified	
Large Ducks At Long Range	45-65	Steel 2 to 1	1-1/8	1-2	85-90	Improved Modified, Full	
Mallard, Black, Pintail, Goldeneye, Gadwall	45-65	HEVI-Shot 4	1-1/4	1-2	85-90	Improved Modified, Full	
Large Ducks Over Decoys	20-45	Steel 6 to 2	1/4 - 1	1-2	95-90	I.C. (20-35 Yds), Mod. (35-45 Yds)	
	20-45	HEVI-Shot 6 to 4	1-1/8	1-2	85-90	I.C. (20-35 Yds), Mod. (35-45 Yds)	
Medium Ducks Over Decoys	20-45	Steel 6 to 3	1	1-2	115-120	I.C. (20-35 Yds), Mod. (35-45 Yds)	
Wigeon, Scaup, Shoveler	20-45	HEVI-Shot 6 to 4	1-1/8	1-2	115-120	I.C. (20-35 Yds), Mod. (35-45 Yds)	
Small Ducks Over Decoys	20-45	Steel 6 to 4	1	1-2	135-145	Mod. (20-35 Yds), Full (35-45 Yds)	
Teal, Ruddy, Buffhead	20-45	HEVI-Shot 6	1-1/8	1-2	135-145	Mod. (20-35 Yds), Full (35-45 Yds)	
Ring-Necked Pheasants	20-50	Steel 3 to 2	1	2-3	90-95	I.C. (20-30 Yds), Mod. (30-50 Yds)	
	20-50	HEVI-Shot 6 to 4	1-1/8	2-3	90-95	I.C. (20-30 Yds), Mod. (30-50 Yds)	
Turkeys (Head and Neck Shots)	20-40	Steel 4	1-1/4	3-4	210-230	Full or Extra Full	
Northern Bobwhite Quail	20-30	Steel 7	5/8	1-2	170-190	Imp. Cyl., Light Modified	
Swatter Load For Wounded Birds	20-30	Steel 7 to 6	1	1	175	Improved Modified, Full	

This table summarizes Tom Roster's analyses to date of the waterfowl lethality data bases for certain of the 15 U.S. steel versus lead waterfowl shooting tests run between 1962 & 1964, one steel-only pheasant shooting test plus lethality data bases owned by ammunition companies for birds taken with nontoxic shotshell loads Roster tested for them & the CONSEP organization. Note: Steel BBB (.190") and HEVI-Shot #2 (.150") have exhibited the best all-around performance for taking geese; steel #3 (.140") and HEVI-Shot #4 (.130") the best all-around performance for taking ducks; and steel #2 and HEVI-Shot #4 the best all-around performance for taking ring-necked pheasants.  
<sup>1</sup>These findings are derived from testing 3" 20 gauge; 2 1/4" 3" and 3 1/2" 12 gauge; and 3 1/2" 10 gauge steel loads; plus 3" 20 gauge and 2 1/4" and 3" 12 gauge HEVI-Shot loads.  
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## 2013 Hunting Outlook

*By Randy Kreil*

Earlier this year a close friend who is a fourth grade teacher asked my opinion on an issue they were debating at their school. They were discussing the need to continue teaching map reading skills in this day and age of Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and other navigation systems.

It took me about five seconds to respond: "Absolutely, people need to have a mental image of where they are on the face of the earth and what the landscape around them consists of."

Electronic navigation systems are amazing tools, but they have a tendency to focus the user on listening to instructions instead of looking around and understanding the landscape. Learning to use a map to identify rivers, hills, cities, road systems and routes of travel is valuable, and it requires us to use our minds to develop a mental image of where we are and where we want to go.

This discussion got me thinking about how technology has influenced hunting over the past decade. While improvements in firearms, archery equipment, clothing and other hunting-related items have always occurred over time, it seems as if the race to develop new and better products has intensified in recent years.

We see it at the Game and Fish Department on a regular basis. Someone stops by or calls and asks if a new piece of equipment is legal for hunt-

ing or fishing. And then our internal debate begins, just like at the elementary school.

All technological advances are not necessarily a negative, and in many cases they are a distinct positive. Take cell phones for example. The first cell phone call I made from the field was in 1996 while sitting on a hilltop in the Killdeer Mountains. I called home to let my wife know that we were successful in our pronghorn doe hunt, and we were going to stay an extra day to chase some sharptails.

At the time it was a novel experience, but of course today such calls are routine to the point where if you don't call in with a location and an expected time of arrival, someone will start to worry.

Cell phones serve many purposes, including safety in times of emergency, tracking weather changes, and communicating with family back home or with other members of your hunting party. Following a recent law change, hunters and anglers can now store an electronic image of their license on their phone, in lieu of having to produce a paper license if checked by a game warden.

While I believe people still need to have an innate sense of direction and understanding of where they are, the advent of GPS is, overall, positive for a number of reasons. Knowing where you are, and if you can hunt in that

particular spot, is important, and the combination of reading a map such as our Private Land Open To Sportsmen guide, combined with a GPS system, can certainly assist a hunter and clarify their location.

The list of technological items is long and growing every day. The following are just a few examples: electronic predator calls, spinning-wing decoys, neoprene waders versus the old rubber and canvas; rifle scopes, range-finders, and spotting scopes; compound bows and all the improvements that have occurred in recent years; trail cameras; inline muzzleloading rifles; improved walkie-talkies; moisture wicking fabrics for warmth and dryness; and the seemingly endless changes in bullets, powders, primers, shot pellets and cases used for loading and reloading all sorts of ammunition.

In most instances these improvements to gear, clothing and equipment are positive and provide hunters with increased comfort, and more often than not a perceived increased opportunity for success. And therein may be the biggest problem.

The manufacturers, retailers, television shows, print ads and marketing schemes in general are directed at convincing hunters that their chances of success will be improved if they buy and use certain products.

While that may be true in some

# 2013 Hunting Outlook *(continued)*

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cases, long-term improvements still depend on whether there is enough habitat to support wildlife out there on the ground. Without habitat of the proper quality and in the right quantity, you will not have enough wildlife to meet people's expectations. While improvements in technology by themselves may increase hunter expectations, ironically that couldn't come at a more tenuous time.

When you find your way into the field this fall, whether you use your GPS or simply the latest printed version of the PLOTS guide, you will see changes to North Dakota's landscape in many areas. As our Department has noted repeatedly over the past several years, habitat losses we are experiencing will reduce wildlife

populations and hunter success.

Unfortunately, this trend that started in about 2007 is not only continuing, it has accelerated in the past year. The loss of Conservation Reserve Program grasslands, native prairie, wetlands and shelterbelts is ongoing at an alarming rate. Many of the following updates mention this loss of habitat

as it relates to future population prospects for the species we hunt in North Dakota.

That said, North Dakota has plenty of opportunities for successful

hunts this fall. Some of that technology can help make the season better, but technology does not create habitat. Only people can decide on and implement actions that protect, restore or enhance wildlife habitat.

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**RANDY KREIL** is the Game and Fish Department wildlife division chief.



*Photo by Renae Heinle*



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# North Dakota Wildland Fire Danger Guide

## Fire Danger Index

The Fire Danger Index, issued by the National Weather Service, serves as a guide to reduce the number of uncontrollable outdoor fires. Fire Danger Indexes provide an indication of wildland fire potential and overall fire activity to a given area. The Fire Danger Index provides citizens with needed information about fire safety conditions. The index contains five ratings – low, medium, high, very high, and extreme. Fires are more likely to occur on higher index days, and more likely to grow in size. The Fire Danger Index does not predict how a specific fire will behave; however, the indices do give an indication of overall fire activity.

Normally, the NWS calculates the Fire Danger Index for each county using predicted values for temperature, humidity, wind speed, cloud cover and vegetative greenness. The NWS also issues fire weather forecasts and red flag warnings that refer to weather conditions, which could sustain extensive wildland fire activity. These forecasts and warnings are used to alert land management agencies and land users when dangerous burning conditions and increased potential for wildland fires exist. When the vegetative greenness component deteriorates to the point of creating an unusual fuel condition with a high energy release component, the North Dakota Fire Council will scientifically analyze this condition and recommend specific counties be placed in the extreme category, regardless of daily weather conditions regarding temperature, humidity, wind speed and cloud cover. The following chart lists index ratings and fire danger descriptions:

Index Rating	Fire Danger Description
<b>LOW</b>	Weather and fuel indicators show the probability of fire occurrence is low.
<b>MEDIUM</b>	Weather and fuel conditions indicate some potential for fire occurrence. Expect predictable fire behavior with moderate rates of spread.
<b>HIGH</b>	Fires are active. Expect moderate and occasional high rates of spread.
<b>VERY HIGH</b>	Fires spread rapidly and show erratic behavior. Dangerous burning conditions exist.
<b>EXTREME</b>	Potential for large fires exist. Fires spread rapidly. Extreme fire behavior is probable. Critical burning conditions exist.

## Firewood ALERT

Help stop the spread of exotic pests

### DON'T BRING FIREWOOD INTO NORTH DAKOTA!

Exotic insects like Emerald Ash Borer are a major threat to North Dakota's trees. Such pests are easily spread to new areas when infested firewood is brought from other states.

If you or someone you know is planning a trip to North Dakota:

- Don't bring firewood from out-of-state
- Use North Dakota sources of firewood



Emerald ash borer is spread to new areas by infested firewood.



The aftermath of the Emerald ash borer: trees killed in Michigan.

If you have already brought firewood into the state, do not leave it or take it with you – **BURN IT IMMEDIATELY!**

#### For More Information Contact:

North Dakota Department of Agriculture • (701) 239-7295  
North Dakota Forest Service • (701) 231-5138  
USDA APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine • (701) 250-4473

Produced by the North Dakota Department of Agriculture, North Dakota Forest Service, North Dakota State University, USDA APHIS, and USDA Forest Service





# Upland Game Age/Sex Identification Guide

To an individual hunter, whether a sharptail is a male or female, or whether a pheasant rooster is a juvenile or adult, is little more than simple curiosity. This guide is designed to satisfy that curiosity – to show indicators biologists use to determine sex and/or age of upland game birds.

When you know what to look for, you can **usually** make a pretty good guess as to the sex and/or age of the birds in your bag (even biologists are occasionally stumped). If nothing else, you can impress your hunting partners with your new-found knowledge.

## Some Basics

This guide covers five species of non-migratory game birds in North Dakota – ring-necked pheasant, sharp-tailed grouse, Hungarian partridge, ruffed grouse and wild turkeys.

For all species except pheasant, the key to age is hidden in the wing, specifically the outer three large feathers called primaries. For identification purposes, these feathers are numbered. The outermost primary is number 10, the next one in is nine, the third one is eight, and so on. Each species has 10 primary feathers.

Adults of all upland species as well as fully-molted juvenile pheasants, exhibit the same characteristics – rounded feather tips and smooth edges on the outer three primaries.

Another good general rule for determining age is to look at the underside of

the number nine and 10 primaries. Pull back some of the small covert feathers so you can see the “quill” part of the primary feather. If the quill part is blue and soft, that indicates the feather is still growing, and the bird is an adult. On the other hand, if the number eight and/or seven primaries are still growing, then the bird is likely a juvenile.

When wing primaries are fully grown, the quill part becomes hard and white or light gray, then you have to look at the wear and contour between eight and nine and 10.

To check wear of the outer primaries, look at the top side of the wing. If the ends of the outer two feathers are somewhat rounded and smooth, the bird is likely an adult. If ends are more pointed and frayed, the bird is likely a juvenile.

This rule applies to all birds covered here, except pheasants. Whether a rooster pheasant is an adult or juvenile is determined by the length and appearance of the spur between the foot and knee.

Sex determination is different for each species. For pheasants, the difference is obvious. For sharptails, key indicators are coloration of the central two tail feathers, and the feathers on the top of the head. For Huns, it's feather coloration on the shoulder of the wing, and for turkey it's the breast feather color pattern. The sex of a ruffed grouse is best determined by dot patterns on rump feathers.

This basic guide contains text and

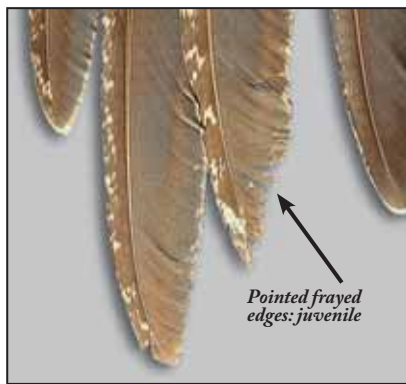
photos that will help you learn more about the birds you bagged. If you use it enough, you may reach a point where you no longer need it.



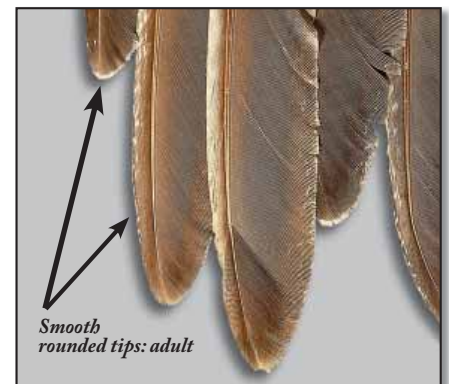
*This photo shows the underside of a sage grouse wing. You can judge this bird as an adult, because the ninth and 10th primaries are still growing, as evidenced by the bluish “quill” section. If the eighth or seventh primaries look like the feathers in this photo, and the ninth and 10th primaries are not growing, the bird is a juvenile. These characteristics apply to all upland species except pheasant. Later in the season, when all feathers are completely grown, the “quill” part of the outer primaries will be white and hard. When this occurs, gauging the appearance of the outer three primaries will tell you if the bird is a juvenile or adult.*



*For all our upland game species except pheasants, the key to determining whether the bird is an adult or young-of-the-year is the appearance of the outer three primary wing feathers. The outermost large wing feather is numbered 10. The next one in is number nine, the next one is eight, and so on. While this is a sharptail wing, feather numbers are the same for all species.*



*The outer three primaries shown here are attached to the wing of a juvenile sage grouse. Note the pointedness and frayed edges on the eighth and ninth primaries. These characteristics are the same for juveniles of all upland species except pheasants. Also note the specks and more mottled coloring of the juvenile wing, compared to the adult.*



*This photo shows the outer three primaries of an adult sage grouse wing. Note the rounded tips and smooth edges. Adults of all upland species as well as fully-molted juvenile pheasants, exhibit the same characteristics – rounded feather tips and smooth edges.*

## Rooster Pheasant

A hunter needs to know the difference between a hen and rooster pheasant before he or she pulls the trigger. Most of the time, the identity of the flushing bird is obvious.

There are situations, though, when it is good to hesitate or hold back. Birds flushing into a rising or setting sun are often a tough call.

In addition, early in the pheasant season, juvenile roosters can be fully-colored or hardly colored at all. The key to determining age between fully-colored juvenile roosters, and adult roosters, is the spur located on each pheasant leg between the foot and knee.

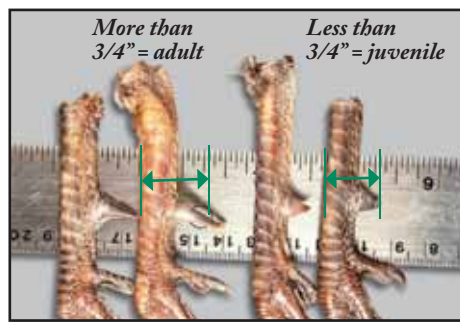
All rooster pheasants have spurs, while hens don't. That's why a foot left on a dressed pheasant is adequate for determining sex.



*These two roosters were taken on an opening day of pheasant season, within a mile of each other. Both are young-of-the-year birds. The bottom bird is obviously a juvenile. The top bird is fully colored. To tell whether the top bird is an adult or juvenile, you need to check length and appearance of the spurs.*

Spur length can vary from just a small nub on a very young bird, to more than 3/4 of an inch, including leg bone, on adult birds. The general rule for determining a rooster's age is if the spur is less than a 3/4-inch in length, including the leg bone, the bird is young-of-the-year. If the spur is more than 3/4-inch long, including the leg bone, the bird is an adult.

If there is any doubt as to age based on spur length, spur appearance is the deciding factor. If the spur is dull-colored, and the point is blunt and soft, the bird is a juvenile. If the spur is black, shiny and sharply pointed, the bird is an adult.



*The spurs on the legs of rooster pheasants are the key to telling whether the bird is a juvenile or adult. In this photo, the two legs on the left came from birds that had survived at least one winter. The legs on the right came from young-of-the-year birds. Spur length on an adult male pheasant is generally 3/4 of an inch or more, measured from the outside of the leg bone to the tip of the spur. Adult spurs are also usually shiny black and sharply pointed. Juvenile roosters have spurs that are less than 3/4 of an inch, measured from the outside of the leg bone to the tip of the spur. Juvenile spurs have soft blunt points and dull coloration.*

In a normal fall, even without looking at the spur, a hunter has roughly an 80 percent chance of guessing whether a rooster in the bag is young-of-the-year or an adult. In an average year about 80 percent of the pheasant bag is juvenile birds. Early in the season, the ratio of juvenile to adult birds is even higher, up to 90 percent. Later in the season, harvest might include only 70 percent juveniles.

Biologists do not use pheasant wings to determine whether a bird is a juvenile or adult. Both juvenile and adult pheasants molt all their primary wing feathers each year, so the appearance or growth stages of the primaries is not used to separate young and adult birds. However, pheasant hunters do send in wings along with legs. Growth of the primaries is measured to determine age (in weeks) of juvenile birds.

## Sharp-tailed Grouse



On their dancing grounds in spring, it's relatively easy to tell the difference between male and female sharp-tailed grouse. Males are doing the dancing. Females are watching.

In fall, differentiating male sharptails from females isn't quite



*Feathers from the top of a sharptail's head hold a key to telling whether the bird is a male or female.*

as easy, but if you know what to look for, the differences are obvious.

Hunters who send in wing envelopes are also asked to pluck some feathers from the top of a sharptail's head. There's a good reason for that.

Male head feathers are black with a buff-colored or tan outside border. Female head feathers exhibit alternating buff and black stripes.

If head feathers don't do it, look at the central tail feathers. The tips of these tail feathers look similar, so you need to pull them out, or pull back the feathers that cover much of the tail. Central tail feathers of a female sharptail carry buff-black markings similar to those of their head feathers. Male tail feathers have more white in them, and the striping or markings aren't as consistent.

When you examine an entire grouse



*These sharptail head feathers came from envelopes sent in by hunters. Female feathers (left) exhibit an alternating buff-black striping pattern. Feathers from a male (right) are all black with a buff-colored border.*

tail, you can also judge the bird's sex. On a male, the feathers running either direction from the center are white and/or light gray. On a female, those same feathers are often mottled with buff/brown markings.

The accompanying photos shows these characteristics. If you know what to look for, it is sometimes possible to judge the sex of a sharptail as it flushes, by whether the tail is brown or white.

Aging sharptails is similar to aging other grouse species. If the number nine and 10 primaries are still growing – look for the bluish quill, you're likely to see this early in





Central tail feathers from male and female sharptails. The coloration of these feathers is an indicator of sex. The four feathers on the left came from females. Note the alternating buff-black horizontal striping. The four male tail feathers on the right show more white, and the striping pattern is more vertical and not as consistent as on female feathers.

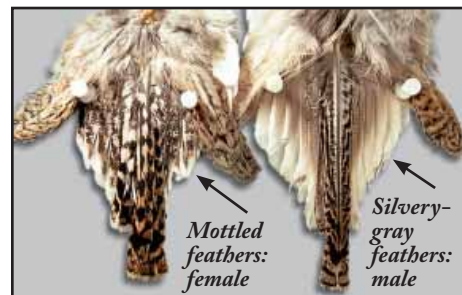


The fraying on the end of the ninth primary in the photo (left) indicates this wing came from a juvenile.



More frayed ends indicates juvenile

These close-ups of the outer primaries of two sharptails attest to the occasional difficulty of determining whether a bird is an adult or juvenile. The outer two primaries appear similar. Both outer primaries on the wing in the center photos above have smooth tips, indicating an adult bird. But look closely at the number nine (second from right) primary in both photos.



Pulling away feathers that cover a grouse's tail reveals another way to tell males from females. The feathers on either side of center on the female (left) are mottled. The same feathers on a male (right) are white on the ends and silvery-gray closer to the body.

the season – the bird is an adult. If primaries seven and/or eight are growing, the bird is likely a juvenile.

If the quills of all primaries are hard and white, that means they've stopped growing. If that's the case, the appearance of the outer two primaries reveals age. If those feathers are pointed and frayed, the bird is young-of-the-year. If those feathers are rounded and smooth, the bird is an adult.

## Hungarian Partridge

Hungarian partridge are the smallest of our resident upland game birds. While not a native, they have adapted to North Dakota's climate and habitat to populate every county in the state.

During hunting season, partridge are usually found in coveys. Coveys often flush en masse, presenting a hunter with a variety of targets. Concentrating on one bird, rather than giving in to the temptation of a flock shot, will lead to more partridge in the bag. Once you have a bird in hand, you can tell whether the bird is a male or female by looking at the shoulder area of the wing.

Males generally have more rust colored wings than females. Female wings are more brown, and exhibit dark brown cross bars and brown mottling on the shoulder patch. Photos in this section show partridge wings with the distinct markings revealing identification of sex.

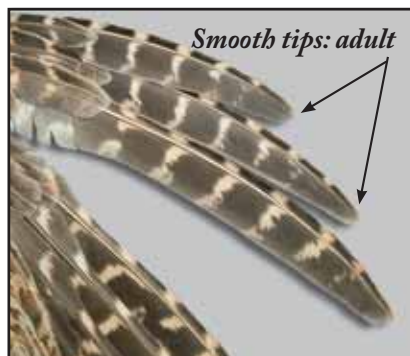
You can tell whether a partridge is young-of-the-year or adult by checking the molt and/or appearance



The feather pattern on the shoulder of a Hungarian partridge wing will tell you whether the bird is a male or female. A mottled coloration, overall, and brown crossbars on individual feathers, indicate this wing came from a female Hun.

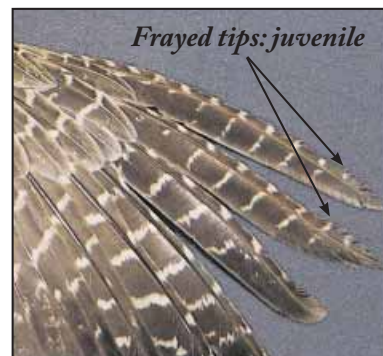


Shoulder feathers on a male Hungarian partridge are somewhat rust-colored. Dark rust crossbars mark some of the feathers, and males do not have dark brown stripes or mottling found on females.



Smooth tips: adult

This wing is from an adult Hun. Note the relatively smooth tips of the outer two primary wing feathers.



Frayed tips: juvenile

This wing is from a young-of-the-year male Hun. Note the frayed edges of the outer two (ninth and 10th) primary wing feathers.



of the outer primary wing feathers. Early in the season, if the number nine or 10 primaries are still growing, the bird is an adult. If primaries eight or seven are growing, then the bird is a juvenile.

Later in the season, when most birds have fully grown wing feathers, you have to look at the wear on the number nine and 10 primaries. As with many other upland game species, if the outer primaries are rounded and smooth, the bird is an adult. If the primaries are more pointed and the ends are frayed, the bird is a juvenile.

## Ruffed Grouse

It is the opinion of many hunters that ruffed grouse provide the finest table fare of any upland game bird. Yet, they are not widely hunted in North Dakota because their range is isolated to the Pembina Hills, Turtle Mountains and the sandhills in McHenry County.

Ruffed grouse sport different color phases, specifically the color of the band on the tail feathers. The color of the band, whether it's red or gray, is not a reliable indicator of age or sex.

The central two feathers in a ruffed grouse tail, however, do reveal sex, but you have to pull them out to get started.

If you pull the central tail feathers from two ruffed grouse, and one is about an inch longer than the other, you know you have a male and a female, because males have longer tail feathers. If you have only one ruffed grouse, or you have two and the tail feathers are the same length, you need to measure the feather to determine sex.

Generally, the central tail feather of a male ruffed grouse is six inches or longer. Central tail feathers from a female are shorter than six inches.

The appearance of the band on the central tail feather can also indicate sex, but this method is not always reliable. A distinct black band indicates a male, but males do not always have a complete band. The band on a female is generally not complete.

Ruffed grouse are the most difficult species to age. The best way to tell juveniles from adults is to look at the outer wing primaries. If the outer primaries are growing, indicated by the bluish "quill," the bird is an adult. If the seventh or eighth primaries are growing, the bird is a juvenile.

In addition, if the outer two primaries are rounded and smooth, the bird is an adult. If those feathers are more pointed and frayed, the bird is a juvenile.

Ruffed grouse live in a more protected environment than other upland game birds. They don't fly as much, and when they do fly, they don't fly as far. Since ruffed grouse don't use their wings as much as other upland game birds, their wing tips may not show much wear, making it more difficult to differentiate young and adult birds whose primary wing feathers are no longer growing.

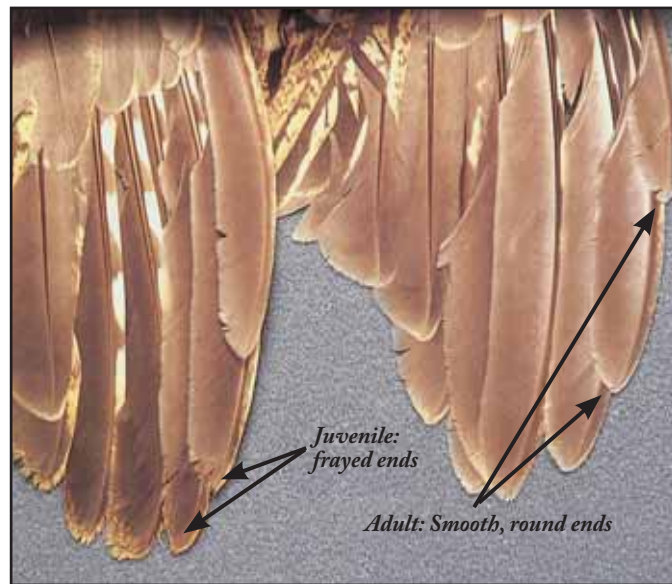


*The best way to determine the sex of a ruffed grouse is to pull out a central tail feather (marked by arrow) and measure it.*

*Distinct black band indicates male*



*If the central tail feather measures six inches or longer, the bird is a male. If the feather is noticeably less than six inches, the bird is a female. In the photo above, the top feather measures about seven inches, and is from a male. The bottom feathers measure about 5-3/4 inches, and is from a female.*



*This photo of two ruffed grouse wings is a good example for determining age. The wing on the left is from a juvenile, characterized by frayed ends on the outer primary feather. The wing on the right is from an adult, distinguished by smooth round edges on the outer primary feathers.*



## Wild Turkeys

North Dakota turkey hunters have the potential to participate in two different seasons, depending on luck in the license lottery drawings. The spring hunt is for males only, while during the fall season both male and female turkeys are legal game.

In the spring, it is relatively easy to distinguish males from females. Gobblers exhibit bright red wattles (engorged skin below the chin) and light blue cheek patches. When a gobbler reacts to an imitation hen turkey call, fanning its tail and breaking into a stupefied dance, there should be no doubt as to the identity of the bird you see over your shotgun sights.

The breeding colors and actions of spring are not so obvious as fall arrives, but if you take your time (if there is time) to study your quarry, you can still usually tell the males from the females.

Fall turkeys are often found in flocks. The biggest birds in a flock are generally adult males. However, if you run across a hen with her brood, size might not be the best indicator of sex. In addition, if you encounter a single bird, you have no basis for size comparison.

Still, sex identification of turkeys is relatively simple if the bird is close enough and you have a second or two to examine it.

Breast feathers on male turkeys, both juveniles and adults, are all black year-round, with one exception. In the fall, if a juvenile male turkey



*Male turkey. Breast feathers are all black. Bright red wattles become evident through spring breeding season, but generally fade away by fall and winter.*



*Female turkey. Note buff-colored barring on breast feathers.*

hasn't gone through post-juvenile molt, its breast feathers may resemble those of a female (black with a buff/tan outer edge).

If the turkey you see looks all black, it's a male.

Breast feathers on female turkeys have a tan or light brown band on the outside edge, and the rest of the feather is not as dark as that of a male. Combined with the rest of the breast feathers, a female turkey appears lighter in color than a male.

In good light conditions, the color difference between males and females is readily visible. If you look at enough turkeys, you can probably tell the difference at any time

during legal shooting hours.

Adult male turkeys generally exhibit a long "beard" growing out of the center of their chest. The beard of a juvenile male is extremely short its first fall and often only visible upon cleaning. The beard will stick out slightly by its first spring.

Female turkeys generally don't have beards, but some do, though they are typically short and hardly visible.

Like other upland bird species, the outer two wing feathers of juveniles will be somewhat pointed and frayed around the edges. Adult primaries are more rounded and have smooth edges.



*The frayed ends on the wing at left indicate a juvenile bird, while the smooth, rounded edges of the wingtips at right indicate an adult bird.*



*Individual breast feathers from male and female turkeys. The two hen feathers on the left are more dusty colored and exhibit an obvious buff or tan colored band on the outer edge. The male feathers on the right are all black and show a glossy sheen from light bouncing off them.*

# Public Use Regulations for State Wildlife Management Areas

The following rules are authorized by Chapter 20.1-11 of the North Dakota Century Code and established in Chapter 30-04-02 of the North Dakota Administrative Code.

- **Public access and use.** All state wildlife game or fish management areas are open for public hunting, fishing, and trapping, or other compatible public use, except as otherwise provided in this chapter, governor's proclamation, or as posted at public road entry points. Any person who violates this section is guilty of a noncriminal offense and shall pay a fifty dollar fee. As used in this chapter, "wildlife management area" or "WMA" has the same meaning as "game or fish management area" in North Dakota Century Code chapter 20.1-11.
- **Motor vehicles.** Mallard Island on Wolf Creek WMA and Matthews Island on Detrobriand WMA are closed to the use of all motorized vehicles and aircraft. On all other wildlife management areas, the use of all motorized vehicles is restricted to those constructed roads, established trails, and parking areas normally used by passenger cars. Established roads and trails do not include temporary trails across cultivated land used for agricultural purposes. Motor vehicles may be used on the ice of lakes for access unless otherwise prohibited by posting or by proclamation. Persons operating any motor vehicle on the ice of any lake or other water area on a wildlife management area do so at their own risk. Motor vehicles may not be used off established roads and trails for retrieval of big game or for waterfowl hunting on wildlife management areas, except where allowed by governor's proclamation or as posted at public road entry points. All motorized vehicles that produce a noise level of eighty-five decibels, or greater, measured on scale A, at a distance of fifty feet (15.2 meters) are prohibited. Any person who violates this section is guilty of a noncriminal offense and shall pay a one hundred dollar fee.
- **Watercraft.** No person may leave watercraft unattended on a wildlife management area unless the watercraft is being used on a daily basis. The department may have horsepower or other watercraft restrictions on some wildlife management area lakes, as posted at entry points. Any person who violates this section is guilty of a noncriminal offense and shall pay a fifty dollar fee.
- **Firearms.** Use of firearms on wildlife management areas is allowed, except in a reckless and indiscriminate manner, and

as otherwise posted at public road entry points. A person discharging a firearm on a department-designated target range shall not be considered to be engaging in indiscriminate shooting. Any person who violates this section is guilty of a noncriminal offense and shall pay a one hundred dollar fee.

- **Littering and abandonment of property.** The disposal of refuse, rubbish, bottles, cans, or other waste materials is prohibited except in garbage containers where provided. Abandonment of vehicles or other personal property is prohibited. Holding tanks of campers may not be dumped within a state wildlife management area.
- **Removal and destruction of property.** Archaeological artifacts or cultural resources as defined in North Dakota Century Code section 55-03-00.1, trees, shrubs, vines, plants, gravel, fill, sod, water, crops, firewood, posts, poles, or other property may not be mowed, clipped, cut, or removed from a wildlife management area without a permit issued by the director or the director's designee, except that firewood may be removed under certain stated conditions from department designated firewood cutting plots. Commercial cutting of firewood is prohibited on designated firewood cutting plots. Gathering of downed wood for campfires is permitted. Removal of property from a wildlife management area by permit shall be only in a manner, limit, and conditions specified by the permit. Berries and fruit may be picked, for noncommercial use unless prohibited by posted signs at public road entry points. Property may not be destroyed or defaced.
- **Private property and structures.** No person shall construct or maintain any building, cabin, dock, fence, beehive, billboard, sign, or other structure on any wildlife management area except by permit issued by the director or the director's designee. Fishhouses may be used during the ice fishing season in accordance with the governor's proclamation. Duck, goose, crane, and other types of decoys may not be left unattended on any wildlife management area.
- **Cropping, haying, and commercial enterprises.** No person may conduct any cropping, haying, or other commercial enterprise on any wildlife management area, except by lease or permit issued by the director or the director's designee.
- **Animal prohibited – Exceptions.** The director has determined that animals, other than free-ranging wildlife that may

be found on wildlife management areas, are detrimental to the protection and propagation of wildlife and other natural resources. Except as otherwise provided in this section and section 30-04-02-14.2, no individual may possess or cause the entry of any animal on any wildlife management area.

- **Livestock.** Livestock shall not be permitted to graze or roam on any wildlife management area except as provided for by a grazing permit or lease issued by the director or the director's designee. As used in this section, "livestock" means domestic animals and nontraditional livestock as defined by North Dakota Century Code section 36-01-00.1.
- **Pets.** Pets may not be permitted to run unattended on wildlife management areas. Any individual who violates this subsection is guilty of a noncriminal offense and shall pay a fifty dollar fee.
- **Horseback riding.** A person may engage in casual horseback riding or trail riding on wildlife management areas. Groups of twenty-five or more individual riders or twenty-five or more horses or other equine animals must first obtain a permit from the director or the director's designee. No person may engage in, conduct, or organize any competitive or noncompetitive activity involving the use of horses or other equines to conduct racing, barrel racing, roping, jumping, or other activities that cause unnecessary disturbance to the wildlife and wildlife habitat. Any person who violates this subsection is guilty of a noncriminal offense and shall pay a one hundred dollar fee.
- **Camping.** Camping for longer than ten consecutive days on any wildlife management area is prohibited. Trailers, campers, motor homes, or tents may not be left on any wildlife management area unless used for daily lodging. Camping is prohibited on those wildlife management areas where posted at public road entry points. Overnight camping is now prohibited on the following WMAs: Antelope Creek, Big Oxbow, Lewis and Clark, Neu's Point, Ochs Point, Overlook, Sullivan and Tobacco Garden in McKenzie County; Van Hook in Mountrail County; and Hofflund and Trenton in Williams County. The following WMAs are closed to camping on Tuesdays and Wednesdays except holidays, but open to camping Thursday-Monday: North



Lemmon Lake in Adams County; Bull Creek in Billings County; Alkali Creek and Spring Creek in Bowman County; Killdeer Mountains in Dunn County; Camels Hump Lake in Golden Valley County; Indian Creek in Hettinger County; Audubon, Custer Mine, Deepwater Creek, deTrobriand, Douglas Creek and Wolf Creek in McLean County; and Beaver Creek and Hille in Mercer County; Storm Creek in Morton County; and Cedar Lake and Speck Davis Pond in Slope County. On those WMAs where camping is allowed Thursday through Monday, all equipment must be removed on Tuesday and Wednesdays when camping is not allowed.

- **Mowing of vegetation for campsites** is prohibited on wildlife management areas. Any person who violates this section is guilty of a noncriminal offense and shall pay a one hundred dollar fee.
- **Group activities.** Group activities attended by more than twenty-five persons are prohibited without a permit issued by the director or the director's designee. Any person who violates this section is guilty of a noncriminal offense and shall pay a one hundred dollar fee.
- **Noise.** Excessive noise, which unreasonably disturbs other individuals, is prohibited on wildlife management areas. Any person who violates this section is guilty of a noncriminal offense and shall pay a fifty dollar fee.
- **Tree stands.** No person may construct or use a permanent tree stand or permanent steps to a tree stand on any wildlife management area. Portable tree stands and portable steps, screw-in steps, and natural tree stands may be used. Portable tree stands and portable steps are defined as those that are held to the tree with ropes, straps, cables, chains, or bars. Screw-in steps are those that are screwed into the tree by hand without the aid of any tools. Ladder-type stands that lean against the tree are portable stands. A notched board placed in a tree crotch is a portable stand. Natural stands are those crotches, trunks, down trees, etc., where no platform is used. A metal or plastic tag must be attached to each tree stand. This tag must display the owner's name, address and telephone number. Tree stands do not preempt hunting rights of others in the vicinity of the tree stand. Tree stands and steps may not be put up before August twentieth of the year, and they shall be taken down by January thirty first of the following year. Stands and steps not removed by the thirty first of January are considered abandoned property and are subject to

removal and confiscation by the director or the director's designee. Any person who violates this section is guilty of a noncriminal offense and shall pay a one hundred dollar fee.

- **Dogs.** No person may conduct, permit, or carry out field trials for dogs on any wildlife management area without first obtaining a permit from the director or the director's designee. Training of bird and gun dogs is prohibited April first through August fifteenth on all wildlife management areas. Training of dogs on any wildlife management areas by a professional trainer is prohibited at all times. Any person other than a professional trainer who violates this section is guilty of a noncriminal offense and shall pay a one hundred dollar fee.
- **Department work.** This chapter shall not apply to the director, the director's agents and employees, and other persons designated by the director when necessary for law enforcement or for development, management, or maintenance of any wildlife management area.
- **Glass beverage containers or kegs prohibited.** No person may use or possess glass beverage containers or kegs on any wildlife management area. Any person who violates this section is guilty of a noncriminal offense and shall pay a one hundred dollar fee.
- **Baiting.** Except as otherwise provided herein, no person may place or use bait for attracting, luring, feeding, or habituating wildlife to the bait location for any purpose on a wildlife management area. Bait includes grains, minerals, salt, fruits, vegetables, hay, or any other natural or manufactured feeds. Bait does not include the use of lures, scents, or liquid attractants for hunting, or management activities of the department. A person may use bait to lure and take furbearers when engaged in lawful trapping activities. Any person who violates this section is guilty of a noncriminal offense and shall pay a one hundred dollar fee.
- **Fireworks, model rocket engines, or combustible or explosive materials prohibited.**
  - No person may possess, discharge, or set off within any wildlife management area any form of fireworks, model rocket engine, or combustible or explosive material unless authorized by the director or the director's designee.
  - The term "fireworks" means any combustible or explosive composition, or any substance or combination of substances or article prepared to produce a visible or audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration, or detonation. The term includes any blank cartridge, toy pistol, toy

cannon, toy cane, or toy gun in which an explosive other than a toy paper cap is used; balloon that requires fire underneath to propel the balloon; firecracker, torpedo, skyrocket, Roman candle, daygo bomb, sparkler, or other item of like construction; item containing any explosive or flammable compound; or any tablet or other device containing any explosive substance. This section does not apply to any toy paper cap containing not more than twenty-five hundredths of a grain (16.20 milligrams) of explosive composition per cap.

- "Model rocket engine" means a commercially manufactured, nonreusable rocket propulsion device constructed of a nonmetallic casing and solid propellant wherein all of the ingredients are self-contained so as not to require mixing or handling by the user. The propellant charge may not exceed two and two-tenths ounces (62.37 grams) per engine.
- "Combustible or explosive material" does not include rifle, shotgun, or handgun ammunition; petroleum-base or synthetic fuels and lubricants when contained within a motor or recreational vehicle engine or drive train; or matches, butane, kerosene, propane, or similar fuels and devices used in the ordinary course of camping. Any person who violates this section is guilty of a noncriminal offense and shall pay a one hundred dollar fee.
- **Paintballing prohibited.** No person shall engage in any form of paintballing on any state wildlife management area unless authorized by the director or the director's designee. The term "paintballing" refers to any sport in which participants eliminate opponents from play by hitting them with paintballs (spherical gelatin capsules containing primarily polyethylene glycol, other non-toxic and water-soluble substances, and dye) shot from a compressed-gas-powered gun, commonly called a marker.
- **Geocaching prohibited.** No person shall engage in any form of geocaching on any state wildlife management area unless authorized by the director or the director's designee. The term "geocaching" refers to an outdoor treasure-hunting game in which the participants use a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver or other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers (called "geocaches" or "caches"). A typical cache is a small waterproof container containing a logbook and "treasure".

\*Rules specific to a certain WMA, other than the previously mentions, are posted at the WMA entrances.

# Wildlife Management Area Guide

The following is a list of Department wildlife management areas. The WMAs are listed by map sheet and provide the county, WMA name, general location and approximate acreage. Keep in mind directions to the WMAs may vary depending upon road conditions;

many roads in North Dakota may be impassible due to water over the road, therefore, it is recommended that alternate routes be planned in advance. Unless otherwise specified, the WMAs are open to hunting, fishing and trapping.

*Check the current hunting and fishing proclamations for details or contact the North Dakota Game and Fish Department at 701-328-6300.*

Map Sheet	County	WMA Name	Location	Acres
Map Sheet 1	DIVIDE	Blue Ridge	3 miles east, and 4 miles north of Junction US 85 & ND 50	160.00
Map Sheet 2	WILLIAMS	Hofflund	5 miles east, 10 miles south, 1/2 mile east, and 1 mile south of Ray; overnight camping prohibited <i>(also see Map Sheet 8)</i>	1558.00
Map Sheet 2	MCKENZIE	Lewis and Clark	6 miles southwest of Williston; along Missouri River and Lake Sakakawea; overnight camping prohibited	12151.00
Map Sheet 2	MCKENZIE	Tobacco Garden	2 miles east, and 23 miles north of Watford City; overnight camping prohibited	392.00
Map Sheet 2	WILLIAMS	Blacktail Dam	17 miles north, 5 miles west, and 1/2 mile north of Williston	46.00
Map Sheet 2	WILLIAMS	Trenton	Approximately 12 miles southwest of Williston near Trenton; along Missouri River and Lake Sakakawea; overnight camping prohibited	2647.00
Map Sheet 3	MCKENZIE	Big Oxbow	Located in Sections 20, 21, 28, and 29 of Range 104 West, Township 152 north, located 7 miles north of the junction of US Highway 200 and ND 58; overnight camping prohibited. Boat access may be required.	987.00
Map Sheet 3	MCKENZIE	Overlook	13 miles west, and 6-1/2 miles north of Junction ND 200 and US 85; overnight camping prohibited	32.00
Map Sheet 3	MCKENZIE	Ochs Point	5 miles north of Junction HWY 200 and ND 58, 3 miles east, and 1 mile north; overnight camping prohibited	1000.00
Map Sheet 3	MCKENZIE	Neus Point	3-1/2 miles north of Cartwright, 1 mile west, and 4-1/2 miles north; overnight camping prohibited	500.00
Map Sheet 3	MCKENZIE	Sullivan	5 miles north of Junction HWY 200 and ND 58, 3 miles east, and 1/2 mile north; overnight camping prohibited	265.10
Map Sheet 4	DUNN	Killdeer Mountains	<i>(Beginning at Killdeer on Map Sheet 10)</i> 9 miles west, 1 mile north, 1 mile west, and 5 miles north of Killdeer; overnight camping is prohibited on Tuesdays and Wednesdays except holidays	7050.00
Map Sheet 5	GOLDEN VALLEY	Camels Hump Lake	Just northeast of Sentinel Butte I-94 Exit 10 Interchange; overnight camping is prohibited on Tuesdays and Wednesdays except holidays	112.00
Map Sheet 5	BILLINGS	Bull Creek	12.5 miles south, and 3.5 miles west of Belfield; overnight camping is prohibited on Tuesdays and Wednesdays except holidays	160.00
Map Sheet 5	SLOPE	Speck Davis Pond	<i>(Beginning at Amidon on Map Sheet 6)</i> 9 miles west, 1 mile south, 6 miles west, and 4 miles north of Amidon; overnight camping is prohibited on Tuesdays and Wednesdays except holidays	160.00
Map Sheet 6	BOWMAN	Alkali Creek	11 miles south, 5 miles east, and 1-1/2 miles south of Bowman; overnight camping is prohibited on Tuesdays and Wednesdays except holidays	570.00
Map Sheet 6	BOWMAN	Spring Creek	11 miles south, and 5-1/2 miles east of Bowman; overnight camping is prohibited on Tuesdays and Wednesdays except holidays	445.00
Map Sheet 7	BURKE	Leaf Mountain	11 miles north, and 1/2 mile east of Junction ND 40 & ND 50	160.00
Map Sheet 7	BURKE	Short Creek	5-1/2 miles north of Columbus	131.00
Map Sheet 7	BURKE	Smishek Lake	4 miles north of Powers Lake	174.00
Map Sheet 7	DIVIDE	Salt Flats	<i>(Beginning at Noonan on Map Sheet 1)</i> 3 miles east, and 0.5 miles north of Noonan	320.00
Map Sheet 7	DIVIDE	Harris M. Baukol	1/2 mile south, and 3 miles west of Larson	1268.00
Map Sheet 7	WILLIAMS	McGregor Dam	13-1/2 miles west of Powers Lake, or 1 mile southwest of McGregor	191.00
Map Sheet 8	MCKENZIE	Antelope Creek	<i>(Beginning at New Town on Map Sheet 9)</i> 12 miles northwest of New Town; overnight camping prohibited	738.00
Map Sheet 8	MOUNTRAIL	Palermo	1-1/2 miles southwest of Palermo	40.00
Map Sheet 8	MOUNTRAIL	White Earth Valley	Two units: 9 miles north of White Earth, and 2 miles south of White Earth	280.00
Map Sheet 9	MCLEAN	Deepwater Creek	15 miles south of Parshall; camping prohibited on Tuesdays and Wednesdays except holidays	2417.00
Map Sheet 9	MOUNTRAIL	Van Hook	6 miles east, and 2 miles south of New Town; overnight camping prohibited	4510.00
Map Sheet 10	DUNN	Killdeer Mountains	9 miles west, 1 mile north, 1 mile west, and 5 miles north of Killdeer <i>(Also see Map Sheet 4)</i>	7050.00
Map Sheet 10	MERCER	Golden Valley	9-1/2 miles north, and 1 mile east of Golden Valley	160.00



Map Sheet	County	WMA Name	Location	Acres
Map Sheet 12	ADAMS	Dog Town	11 miles north, and 5 miles east of Junction ND 8 & US 12	36.00
Map Sheet 12	ADAMS	North Lemmon Lake	17 miles east, 1 mile south, 5 miles east, and 1-1/2 miles north of Hettinger; overnight camping is prohibited on Tuesdays and Wednesdays except holidays	110.00
Map Sheet 12	HETTINGER	Indian Creek	1-1/2 miles west, 2 miles south, 2 miles west, and 3 miles south of Regent; overnight camping is prohibited on Tuesdays and Wednesdays except holidays	1173.00
Map Sheet 12	SLOPE	Cedar Lake	8 miles south, and 5 miles west of Junction ND 21 and ND 22; overnight camping is prohibited on Tuesdays and Wednesdays except holidays	817.00
Map Sheet 14	WARD	Foxholm	4-1/2 miles southeast of Carpio or 2 miles northwest of Foxholm	40.00
Map Sheet 15	MCLEAN	Audubon	9 miles east of Garrison; camping prohibited on Tuesdays and Wednesdays except holidays	3965.00
Map Sheet 15	MCLEAN	Custer Mine	5 miles east, and 1 mile south of Garrison; camping prohibited on Tuesdays and Wednesdays	695.00
Map Sheet 15	MCLEAN	deTrobriand	4 miles south of Garrison; camping prohibited on Tuesdays and Wednesdays	2114.00
Map Sheet 15	MCLEAN	Douglas Creek	11 miles west, and 2-1/2 miles south of Garrison; camping prohibited on Tuesdays and Wednesdays	2189.00
Map Sheet 15	MCLEAN	Wolf Creek	1 mile south, and 2-1/2 miles west of Coleharbor; camping prohibited on Tuesdays and Wednesdays	4866.00
Map Sheet 16	MERCER	Hille	14 miles north of Beulah; camping prohibited on Tuesdays and Wednesdays ( <i>Also see Map Sheet 15</i> )	2967.00
Map Sheet 16	MCLEAN	Riverdale	2 miles southwest of Riverdale	2252.00
Map Sheet 16	MERCER	Beaver Creek	12 miles north of Zap; camping prohibited on Tuesdays and Wednesdays	298.00
Map Sheet 16	MERCER	Harmony Lake	6 miles north of Hazen ( <i>Portions of area closed until reclamation completed</i> )	637.00
Map Sheet 16	MERCER	Missouri Breaks	1 mile south, 2 miles southeast, and 1 mile south of Stanton	480.00
Map Sheet 16	MERCER	North Beulah Mine	2 miles north, and 1-1/2 miles east of Beulah ( <i>A portion of this area is closed to public use due to active sinkholes</i> )	1858.00
Map Sheet 16	OLIVER	Arroda Lake	3-1/2 miles east of Junction ND 48 and ND 200A	383.00
Map Sheet 16	OLIVER	Lewis and Clark	1 mile southwest of Washburn	121.00
Map Sheet 16	OLIVER	Wilbur J. Boldt	6 miles east, and 2 miles south of Center	160.00
Map Sheet 17	GRANT	Otter Creek	( <i>Beginning at Flasher on Map Sheet 18</i> ) 8 miles west, 6 miles north, 4 miles east, and 1 mile north of Flasher	321.00
Map Sheet 17	MORTON	Crown Butte Lake	4 miles west of I-94 Exit 147 (ND 25) on north frontage road	83.00
Map Sheet 17	MORTON	Fish Creek Lake	8 miles south, 2 miles east, and 1 mile south of I-94 Exit 134 ( <i>Judson Exit</i> )	190.00
Map Sheet 17	MORTON	Storm Creek	1 mile north, 3 miles west, 1 mile north, and 1 mile west of I-94 Exit 123 ( <i>Almont Exit</i> ); overnight camping is prohibited on Tuesdays and Wednesdays except holidays	480.00
Map Sheet 17	MORTON	Sweetbriar Lake	18 miles west of Mandan off I-94 Exit 134 ( <i>Judson Exit</i> )	888.00
Map Sheet 18	MORTON	Lake Patricia	2 miles east of Flasher	630.00
Map Sheet 18	GRANT	Three Buttes	5 miles south, 1 mile east, 2 miles south, 2 miles east, 1 mile south, 1 mile west, and 0.5 miles south of Flasher	160.00
Map Sheet 19	ROLETTE	School Section Lake	9 miles north, and 2 miles east of Dunseith ( <i>Also see Map Sheet 25</i> )	302.00
Map Sheet 19	BOTTINEAU	Black Lake	7 miles north, and 2 miles west of Bottineau	180.00
Map Sheet 19	BOTTINEAU	Nickelson	8 miles north, 9 miles east, 1 mile south, and 1 mile east of Bottineau	160.00
Map Sheet 19	BOTTINEAU	Schuester	7 miles east, and 3 miles north of Bottineau	80.00
Map Sheet 19	BOTTINEAU	Thompson Lake	4 miles northeast, and 3 miles east of Bottineau	890.00
Map Sheet 19	BOTTINEAU	Turtle Mountain	Two units: 8-1/2 miles west, 5 miles north and 5-1/2 west, 8 miles north, and 1/2 mile west of Dunseith	440.00
Map Sheet 19	BOTTINEAU	Turtle Mtn. Forest	8 miles north, 5 miles west, 3 miles north, and 3-1/2 miles east of Bottineau	160.00
Map Sheet 19	BOTTINEAU	V.V. Bull	1 mile west, 7 miles north, and 1/2 miles west of Bottineau	200.00
Map Sheet 19	MCHENRY	Upham	7 miles east of Upham	78.00
Map Sheet 19	ROLETTE	Willow Lake	9 miles north, and 3 miles west of Dunseith	597.00
Map Sheet 19	ROLETTE	Rabb Lake	9 miles north, 5 miles west, 3-1/2 miles north, and 1/2 mile east of Dunseith	22.00
Map Sheet 20	MCHENRY	Heffner Lake	8 miles south, 2 miles west, and 1/2 mile south of Junction ND 14 & US 2	277.00
Map Sheet 20	MCHENRY	Round Lake Township	1 mile north, 10 miles east, 2 miles south, 2 miles east, 1 mile northeast, and 3 miles east of Karlsruhe	160.00
Map Sheet 20	PIERCE	Balta Dam	1/2 mile southeast of Balta	105.00
Map Sheet 20	PIERCE	Horseshoe Lake	8.5 miles west, 4 miles north, and 1 mile west of Rugby	640.00
Map Sheet 20	MCHENRY	Sand Hill	3.6 miles north, and 1 mile east of Towner	640.00
Map Sheet 21	MCLEAN	Blue Lake	6 miles northeast of Turtle Lake	12.00
Map Sheet 21	MCLEAN	Charles Schroeder	10 miles south, and 1 mile east of Butte	437.00
Map Sheet 21	SHERIDAN	Lincoln Valley East	( <i>Beginning at Goodrich on Map Sheet 22</i> ) 6 miles west, 11 miles north, and 1/2 mile east of Goodrich	160.00

Map Sheet	County	WMA Name	Location	Acres
Map Sheet 22	BURLEIGH	Arena	4 miles east, 3 miles south, and 1-1/2 mile east of Wing	800.00
Map Sheet 22	BURLEIGH	Art Brazda	4-1/2 miles south, 1 mile east, 6 miles south, 3-1/2 miles east of McClusky	920.00
Map Sheet 22	BURLEIGH	Bunker Lake	3 miles west, 6 miles north, and 1/2 mile west of Wing	160.00
Map Sheet 22	BURLEIGH	Phoenix Township	5 miles north, and 4-1/2 miles east of Wing	80.00
Map Sheet 22	BURLEIGH	Russell Stuart	1-1/2 miles north, 2 miles west, and 8-1/2 miles north of Regan	735.00
Map Sheet 22	BURLEIGH	Wilton Mine	1 mile east of Wilton	188.00
Map Sheet 22	MCLEAN	Painted Woods	8 miles northwest of Wilton near junction of US 83 and ND1804	585.00
Map Sheet 22	OLIVER	Smith Grove	22 miles north of Mandan on ND1806	233.00
Map Sheet 22	OLIVER	Square Butte	13-1/2 miles north of Mandan on ND1806, then 2 miles east, and 1/2 mile north	38.00
Map Sheet 22	SHERIDAN	Cottonwood Slough	4-1/2 miles south, 1 mile east, 4 miles south, 1 mile west, and 1/2 mile south of McClusky	160.00
Map Sheet 22	SHERIDAN	Old John's Lake	2 miles west, and 8 miles south of McClusky	928.00
Map Sheet 22	SHERIDAN	Rolling Hills	9 miles east and 8 miles south of McClusky	982.00
Map Sheet 23	BURLEIGH	Mckenzie Slough	1/2 mile south of McKenzie off I-94 Exit 176. <i>(McKenzie Exit)</i>	680.00
Map Sheet 23	BURLEIGH	Moffit	13-1/2 miles south, and 1/2 mile east of I-94 Exit 182 <i>(Sterling Exit)</i>	160.00
Map Sheet 23	BURLEIGH	Oahe-Burleigh County	Along Missouri River and Oahe Reservoir about 8 miles south of Bismarck & Mandan	7158.00
Map Sheet 23	BURLEIGH	Rice Lake	10 miles north of I-94 Exit 182 <i>(Sterling Exit)</i>	975.00
Map Sheet 23	BURLEIGH	Robert W. Henderson	6 miles east of Bismarck on HWY 10	566.00
Map Sheet 23	EMMONS	Oahe-Emmons County	Along Missouri River and Oahe Reservoir about 17 miles south of Bismarck	3497.00
Map Sheet 23	EMMONS	Mike J. Hurkes	7 miles south, and 1/2 mile east of Moffit, along HWY 83	30.00
Map Sheet 23	MORTON	Morton County WMA	11 miles south, and 1/2 mile east of Mandan	640.00
Map Sheet 23	MORTON	Oahe-Morton County	Along Missouri River and Oahe Reservoir about 10 miles south of Mandan	5537.00
Map Sheet 24	SIOUX	Froelich Dam	8 miles north, and 2 miles west of Selfridge	300.00
Map Sheet 24	EMMONS	Hague WMA	1.6 miles west, and 0.2 miles north of Hague	160.00
Map Sheet 25	ROLETTE	Wakopa WMA	4 miles west of St. John	6739.00
Map Sheet 25	TOWNER	Armourdale Lake	9 miles east, and 1-1/2 miles north of Rolla	23.00
Map Sheet 25	TOWNER	C.C. Underwood	1-1/2 miles west of Hansboro	320.00
Map Sheet 26	BENSON	Knox Slough	1 mile west of Knox	817.00
Map Sheet 26	BENSON	Minnewaukan	6 miles west, 4 miles south, and 1/2 mile west of Minnewaukan	160.00
Map Sheet 26	BENSON	Nesvig	1-1/2 miles southeast of Leeds	160.00
Map Sheet 26	PIERCE	Buffalo Lake	5 miles west of Esmond	854.00
Map Sheet 26	RAMSEY	Kenner Marsh	6-1/2 miles east, 2-1/2 miles south of Church's Ferry	640.00
Map Sheet 26	RAMSEY	Pelican Township	1 mile west, 7-1/2 miles south, 4 miles east, 1-1/2 miles south of Church's Ferry	60.00
Map Sheet 27	BENSON	Lake Legreid	1 mile south, 5 miles west, and 1/2 mile south of Maddock	200.00
Map Sheet 27	EDDY	Sheyenne	2 miles east, and 2 miles south of Sheyenne	40.00
Map Sheet 27	EDDY	Warsing Dam	1 mile northeast of Sheyenne	86.00
Map Sheet 27	SHERIDAN/ WELLS	Lonetree WMA	6 miles south, and 2 miles west of Harvey	25730.00
Map Sheet 27	WELLS	Egg Lake	5-1/2 miles southeast, 1/2 mile south, and 1 mile west of Harvey	10.00
Map Sheet 27	WELLS	Forward	4 miles south, and 2-1/2 miles east of Harvey	30.00
Map Sheet 27	WELLS	Harvey Dam	1/2 mile southwest of Harvey	424.00
Map Sheet 27	WELLS	Heimdahl	4-1/2 miles north, 5 miles west, and 1 mile north of Fessenden	40.00
Map Sheet 27	WELLS	Hoornaert	3 miles south, 1 mile west, and 1/2 mile south of Fessenden	240.00
Map Sheet 27	WELLS	Manfred	4-1/2 miles north, 8 miles west, 1 mile north of Fessenden	30.00
Map Sheet 27	WELLS	Tree Belt	4-1/2 miles southeast of Harvey	123.00
Map Sheet 27	WELLS	Wells County	14 miles south of Harvey	637.00
Map Sheet 27	WELLS	Jay Sandstrom McDonald	6 miles west, 4 miles north, 2 miles west, and 1 mile north of Hamberg	275.00
Map Sheet 28	FOSTER	George Karpen	6 miles west, and 8 miles south of Carrington	480.00
Map Sheet 28	KIDDER	Frettim Township	1 mile north, 3 miles west, 5 miles north, 1 mile west, and 1/2 mile north of Pettibone	80.00
Map Sheet 28	KIDDER	Horsehead Lake	1-1/2 miles west, and 6 miles south of Robinson	757.00
Map Sheet 28	KIDDER	Lake Williams	1/2 mile south of Lake Williams or 1 mile north, 4 miles west, and 1 mile south of Pettibone	44.00
Map Sheet 28	STUTSMAN	Chase Lake	7 miles south, 3 miles west (continues) 2 miles north, 5 miles west, 3 miles south, and 1/2 mile east of Woodworth	2835.00
Map Sheet 28	WELLS	Karl T. Frederick	2 miles west, 7 miles south, and 1/2 mile west of Hurdsfield	400.00
Map Sheet 28	WELLS	Silver Lake	5 miles east, and 2 miles south of Hurdsfield	630.00
Map Sheet 28	WELLS	Sweetgrass WMA	6 miles south, 8 miles west, 1 mile south, and 1/2 mile west of Sykeston	160.00
Map Sheet 28	WELLS	Sykeston Dam	1 mile north of Sykeston	54.00
Map Sheet 28	WELLS	Robert L. Morgan	2 miles north, and 1 mile west of Sykeston	1500.00
Map Sheet 29	KIDDER	Alkaline Lake	14 miles south, 1 mile east, 2 miles south, and 1 mile east of Tappen	47.00



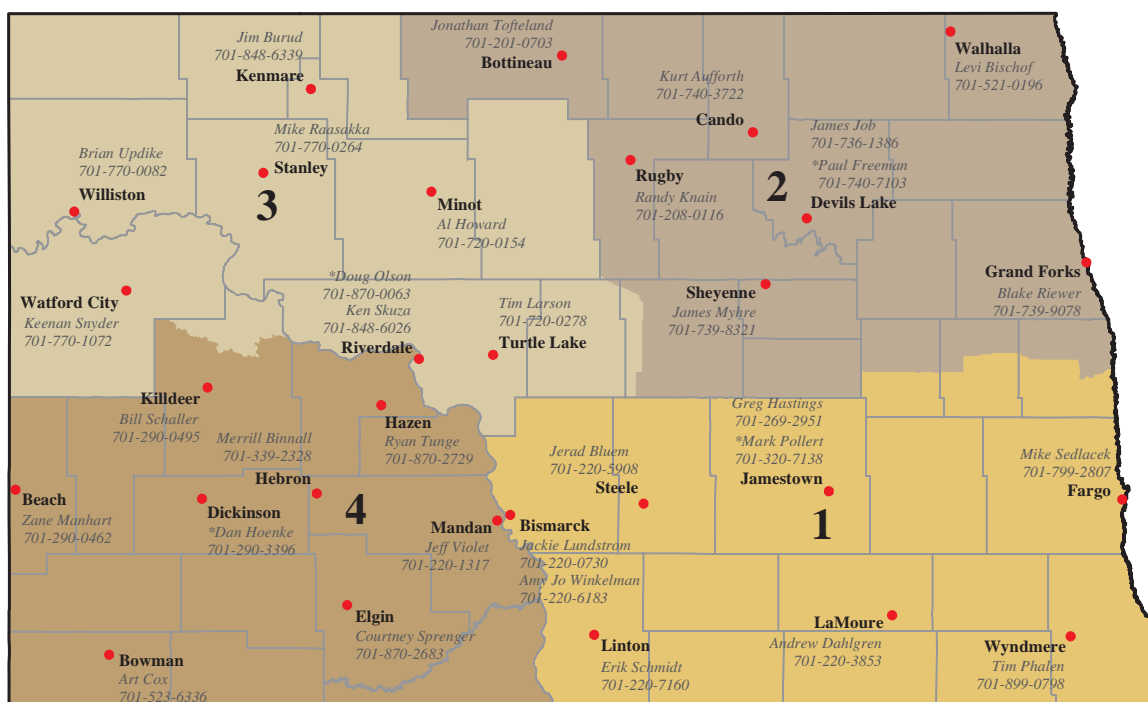
Map Sheet	County	WMA Name	Location	Acres
Map Sheet 29	KIDDER	Dawson	6 miles south of Dawson	2951.00
Map Sheet 29	KIDDER	McPhail	7 miles north, and 1-1/2 miles west of Tappen	170.00
Map Sheet 29	KIDDER	Tappen Slough	4 miles north of Tappen	264.00
Map Sheet 29	STUTSMAN	Leo M. Kirsch	2-1/2 miles west, 3 miles north, 1 mile west, and 1 mile north of I-94 Exit 238 (Cleveland exit)	80.00
Map Sheet 30	LOGAN	Logan County	5 miles north, 5 miles west, and 1 mile north of Lehr	597.00
Map Sheet 30	MCINTOSH	Ashley	1 mile north, 2 miles east, 1 mile north, 1 mile east, 1 mile north, 1 mile east, 1 mile north, and 1/2 mile east of Ashley	80.00
Map Sheet 30	MCINTOSH	Camp Lake	11-1/2 miles east, and 5 miles south of Ashley	800.00
Map Sheet 30	MCINTOSH	Coldwater Lake	13-1/2 miles east, 3 miles south, and 1/2 mile east of Ashley	330.00
Map Sheet 30	MCINTOSH	Green Lake	5 miles east, and 3-1/2 miles south of Wishek	101.00
Map Sheet 30	MCINTOSH	Kisselberry Lake	2-1/2 miles east, and 1 mile north of Ashley	120.00
Map Sheet 30	MCINTOSH	Lehr	2 miles east, and 1 mile south of Lehr	610.00
Map Sheet 30	MCINTOSH	Clear Lake	7 miles north, 3 miles west, 1 mile north, and 1/2 mile west of Ashley	160.00
Map Sheet 30	MCINTOSH	McIntosh County	9 miles east, and 8-1/2 miles south of Lehr	80.00
Map Sheet 31	CAVALIER	Charles V. Pulver	12 miles east, 2-1/2 miles north, 2 miles east, and 3-1/2 miles northwest of Langdon	1162.00
Map Sheet 31	CAVALIER	Pembina Hills	Several units: 8 miles north, 11 miles east, 1 mile north, and 2-1/2 miles east of Langdon	3406.00
Map Sheet 31	CAVALIER	Wilbur Allen	8 miles north, 16 miles east, 1 mile north, 3 miles northwest, 1 mile west, and 1 mile north 1 mile west, 1 mile north, and 1 mile west of Langdon	682.00
Map Sheet 32	RAMSEY	Crary	1-1/2 mile west of Crary	315.00
Map Sheet 32	RAMSEY	Wild Prairie	3 miles west and 4 miles south of Edmore	1756.3
Map Sheet 33	EDDY	Alfred & Jean Meeg	1-1/2 miles south, 2 miles east, and 1-1/2 miles south of Warwick	79.00
Map Sheet 33	EDDY	Howard Stone Memorial	3-1/2 miles north, and 1 mile west of McHenry	400.00
Map Sheet 33	EDDY	Lake Washington	6 miles south of Warwick	910.00
Map Sheet 33	FOSTER	Rusten Slough	3 miles southwest of Grace City	160.00
Map Sheet 33	GRIGGS	Sibley Lake	1 mile east, 4 miles south, and 1 mile west of Binford	102.00
Map Sheet 33	NELSON	Black Swan	11 miles north, and 4 miles west of Junction ND 15 & ND 1	854.00
Map Sheet 33	NELSON	Hoghaug Wildlife Sanctuary	2 miles north, 2 miles west, 4 miles north, and 1 mile east of Tolna	610.00
Map Sheet 33	NELSON	McVile	5 miles north, and 1 mile west of McVile	244.00
Map Sheet 34	BARNES	Ray Holland Marsh	1 mile north, 3 miles west, and 2 miles north of Rogers	200.00
Map Sheet 34	STUTSMAN	Wimbledon	1/2 mile north of Wimbledon	2.00
Map Sheet 35	BARNES	Moon Lake	4 miles south, 3 miles west, 1 mile north, and 1 mile west of I-94 Exit 288 (2 miles west of Valley City)	15.00
Map Sheet 35	BARNES	Clausen Springs	3 miles north, and 1 mile east of Junction ND 1 and ND 46	540.00
Map Sheet 36	DICKEY	Bluestem Prairie	From Junction of HWY 11 and 281 - 4 miles north	480.00
Map Sheet 36	DICKEY	Hyatt Slough	1 mile west, and 4 miles south of Ludden	1354.00
Map Sheet 36	DICKEY	Johnson's Gulch	16 miles west, 3 miles south, and 1 mile west of Ellendale	1402.00
Map Sheet 36	DICKEY	Maple River	8 miles east, 4 miles north of Ellendale	320.00
Map Sheet 36	LAMOURE	Cottonwood Creek	1 mile south, 1 mile east, and 2-1/2 miles south of LaMoure	1773.00
Map Sheet 36	LAMOURE	Kulm Dam	6 miles east, 2 miles north, and 1/2 mile west of Kulm	38.00
Map Sheet 36	LAMOURE	Seth Gordon Marsh	7 miles east, and 1 mile south of LaMoure	482.00
Map Sheet 37	CAVALIER	Cavalier County	Several units: 3 miles southwest of west Junction ND 5 & ND 32	1432.00
Map Sheet 37	CAVALIER	North Walsh County Water Management Board	1 mile north, 3 miles west, 3 miles north, 1 mile west, and 1/2 mile north of Edinburg	80.00
Map Sheet 37	PEMBINA	Dean C. Hildebrand	1-1/2 miles east, 1 mile north, and 1 mile east of I-29 and Exit 191	280.00
Map Sheet 37	PEMBINA	Barron	1 mile east of I-29 and Exit 208	386.70
Map Sheet 37	PEMBINA	Billings	2 miles east, 2 miles south, and 1 mile east of I-29 and Exit 200	160.90
Map Sheet 37	PEMBINA	Clifford	2-1/2 miles south, 6 miles east, 2 miles south, and 1/2 mile east of Walhalla	80.00
Map Sheet 37	PEMBINA	D. L. Thompson	1 mile south, 1 mile east, and 1/2 mile north of Neche	160.00
Map Sheet 37	PEMBINA	Dabout	1.5 miles north and 1.5 miles east of Walhalla	110.00
Map Sheet 37	PEMBINA	Denault	5 miles west and 2 miles north of Pembina	140.00
Map Sheet 37	PEMBINA	Dunklee	3 miles east of I-29 and Exit 196	151.90
Map Sheet 37	PEMBINA	Eldon S. Hillman	6-1/2 miles west of Cavalier	160.00
Map Sheet 37	PEMBINA	Eyolfson	1 mile west, and 1-1/2 miles north of Hensel	23.00
Map Sheet 37	PEMBINA	Fitzsimond Slough	4 miles east, 1 mile north, and 1 mile east of Walhalla	415.00
Map Sheet 37	PEMBINA	LaCoste	7 miles east of Walhalla	102.00

Map Sheet	County	WMA Name	Location	Acres
Map Sheet 37	PEMBINA	Peter and Prescott Holman	From Junction of HWY 5 and 32 - 4 miles north, 6 miles east, 1 mile north, 1/4 mile west and 1 mile north	160.00
Map Sheet 37	PEMBINA	Jay V. Wessels	7 miles south, and 3 miles east of Walhalla	3382.00
Map Sheet 37	PEMBINA	Rene	1-1/2 miles east of I-29 and Exit 208	40.00
Map Sheet 37	PEMBINA	Steinke	1-1/2 miles east of Necho	80.00
Map Sheet 37	WALSH	Charles C. Cook	11 miles south, and 1 mile west of Mountain	323.00
Map Sheet 37	WALSH	North Salt Lake	6 miles west, and 2-1/2 miles south of Drayton	95.00
Map Sheet 37	WALSH	South Walsh County Water Management Board	1 miles north, 5 miles west, and 1 mile north of Edinburg	180.00
Map Sheet 38	GRAND FORKS	Ed Bry	7 miles west, and 5 miles north of Manvel	158.00
Map Sheet 38	GRAND FORKS	Prairie Chicken	Several units: 7 miles west, and 3 miles north of Manvel; 9 miles west, and 1/2 mile south of Manvel	3630.00
Map Sheet 38	WALSH	Joliet Ferry	1 mile east, and 1/2 mile north of I-29 Exit 172	978.00
Map Sheet 39	GRAND FORKS	Crawford Oakville Prairie	3 miles east, and 2 miles south of Emerado	160.00
Map Sheet 39	GRAND FORKS	Grand Forks County and Water Management Board	From Junction of HWY 2 and 18, north 2-1/2 miles	171.2
Map Sheet 39	GRAND FORKS	Kelly's Slough	3 miles north, 1 mile west, 1 mile north, and 1/2 mile west of Emerado	55.00
Map Sheet 39	STEELE	Golden Lake	9-1/2 miles east, and 2 miles north of Finley	579.00
Map Sheet 40	BARNES	Valley City	<i>(Beginning at I-94 Exit 296 on Map Sheet 41)</i> 4 miles north, 2 miles east, and 1/2 mile north of Valley City	800.00
Map Sheet 40	CASS	Erie Dam/Brewer Lake	1 mile south, and 9 miles west of Arthur	1030.00
Map Sheet 40	STEELE	Otto Spies	6 miles east, and 1 mile south of Hope	869.00
Map Sheet 41	BARNES	Koldok	2-1/2 miles east of Oriska	214.00
Map Sheet 41	CASS	Hamilton Wills	13 miles south, and 1-1/2 miles east of I-94 Exit 320 <i>(Emden Exit)</i>	480.00
Map Sheet 41	CASS	Magnolia	5 miles east of Buffalo	103.00
Map Sheet 41	RANSOM	Fort Ransom	1 mile southwest of Fort Ransom	230.00
Map Sheet 41	RICHLAND/ RANSOM	Mirror Pool	8 miles east, 4-1/2 miles south, and 2 miles east of Sheldon	546.00
Map Sheet 42	RANSOM	Englevale Slough	12-1/2 miles west of Lisbon along ND 27	160.00
Map Sheet 42	RICHLAND	Grant Township	4 miles west, and 1 mile south of Lidgerwood	160.00
Map Sheet 42	RICHLAND	Park Lake	6 miles south, 1-1/2 miles west, 1 mile south, and 1 mile west of Lidgerwood	160.00
Map Sheet 42	RICHLAND	Stack Slough	2 miles north, and 6 miles west of Hankinson or 6 miles east, and 2 miles north of Lidgerwood <i>(Also see Map Sheet 44)</i>	596.00
Map Sheet 42	RICHLAND	Swan Lake	1/2 mile east of Lidgerwood	289.00
Map Sheet 42	RICHLAND	Wild Rice	1 mile west, and 1 mile north of Lidgerwood	2089.00
Map Sheet 42	SARGENT	Crete Slough	11 miles west, 1 mile south, and 1/2 mile east of Gwinner	150.00
Map Sheet 42	SARGENT	Meszaros Slough	3-1/2 miles south, and 3-1/2 miles west of Cogswell	598.00
Map Sheet 42	SARGENT	Taayer Lake	8 miles east of Oakes or 6 miles west, 1 mile north, 1 mile west, and 1 mile north of Cogswell	80.00
Map Sheet 42	SARGENT	Tewaukon	3 miles south of Cayuga	1284.00
Map Sheet 44	RICHLAND	Mud Lake	2 miles southwest of Hankinson	351.00

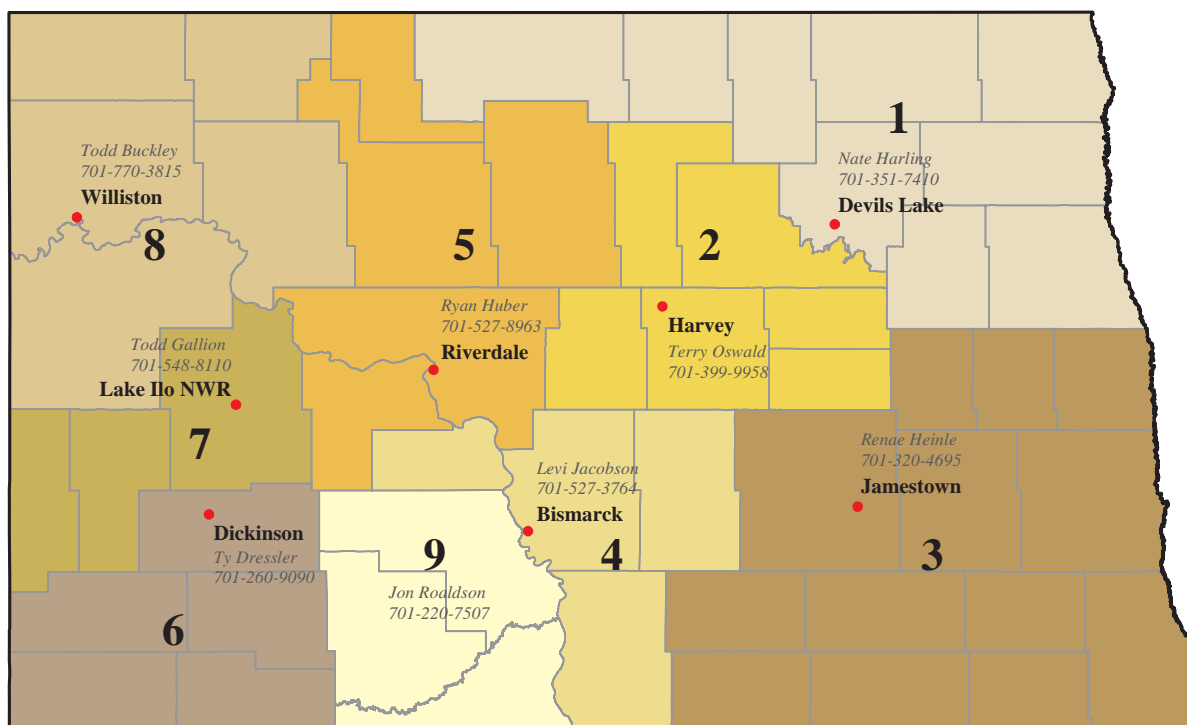


# North Dakota Game and Fish Department

## Wardens and Supervisory Districts



## Private Land Biologist Districts



# Using the Conservation PLOTS Guide

The Conservation PLOTS Guide is made up of 44 detailed map sheets. On the back cover of this guide is an index of detailed map sheets. To use this guide, locate the general area in the state on the index and then turn to the corresponding map sheet on the inside of the guide; each map sheet is numbered on the top and bottom of each sheet as well as the index.

The detailed maps show PLOTS and other public lands such as WMAs, WPAs, state school lands, national wildlife refuges, national grasslands and many more.

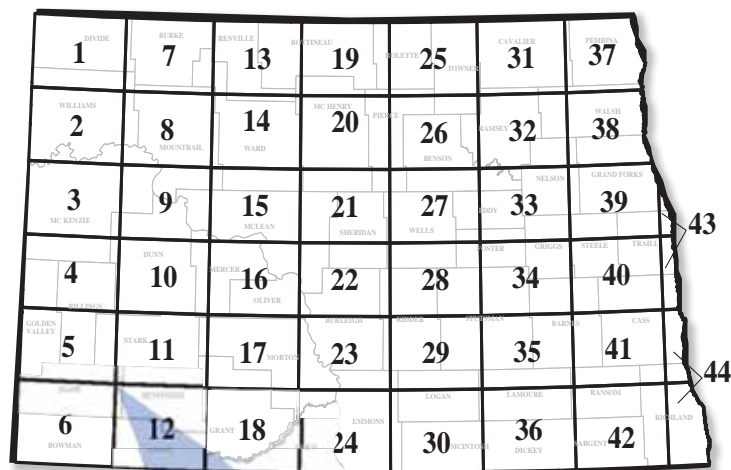
## Understanding Legal Descriptions:

Legal descriptions are based on a system that uses a grid with two sides, township and range. An individual township is a square tract of land with sides of six miles each, and containing 36 sections of land, each section is one mile square and contains 640 acres.

Every legal description has a township, range and section. To determine where a tract of land is located on a map sheet, first find the township number located on the right or left side of the map. Then find the range number located on the top or bottom of the map.

Next, find the point where the township number and range numbers intersect on the map; this should be in the center of the township and will contain 36 square sections. Now locate the section number within the township.

The location of the tract of land is described in such terms as N½ (north one-half), SE¼ (south east one-fourth or quarter), etc. Legal descriptions always read first from either the North or the South, such as NE (northeast) or SW (southwest), etc. They are never WN (westnorth) or ES (eastsouth), etc. The example below reads as the south half of section 31, Township 136 North, Range 96 West.



Range Numbers R96W					
6	5	4	3	2	1
7	8	9	10	11	12
18	17	16	15	14	13
19	20	21	22	23	24
30	29	28	27	26	25
31	32	33	34	35	36

Start Here ➔ T136N → R96W → S½, Section 31

*(This description reads as the south half of section 31, Township 136 North, Range 96 West.)*



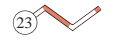
# Map Features



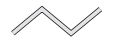
**Interstate**



**Federal**



**State**



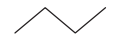
**Paved Road**



**Gravel or Graded  
& Maintained**



**Unimproved Roads  
& Trails**



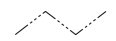
**City Streets &  
Subdivisions**



**Township Boundary**



**County Boundary**



**Utility Lines**



**Section Corners**



**Water Body**



**River or Stream**



## ND Game & Fish PLOTS Locations

Marks the boundary of Private Lands Open To Sportsmen for walk-in hunting opportunities. Nontoxic shot is not required for upland game.

**Working Lands are outlined in orange**  
**Waterfowl Rest Area Access PLOTS are outlined in blue**



## ND Game & Fish Wildlife Management Areas (WMA)

Marks the boundary of lands open to hunting and fishing in accordance with state regulations. Nontoxic shot is not required for upland game.



## ND Department of Agriculture State Waterbank

Marks the boundary of lands open to hunting and fishing in accordance with state regulations. Nontoxic shot is not required for upland game.



## Ducks Unlimited

Marks the boundary of Ducks Unlimited property open for walk-in hunting opportunities. Nontoxic shot is not required for upland game.



## Waterfowl Rest Areas

Consult waterfowl proclamation for specific regulations.



## ND State Land Department

Marks the boundary of lands open to walk-in hunting unless otherwise posted with official State Land Department signs. Nontoxic shot is not required for upland game.



## ND State Forest Service

Marks the boundary of lands open to walk-in hunting. Nontoxic shot is not required for upland game.



## US Fish & Wildlife Service Waterfowl Production Area (WPA)

Marks the boundary of lands open to hunting and fishing in accordance with state regulations. Nontoxic shot is required when hunting on these areas.



## US Fish & Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)

Marks the boundary of National Wildlife Refuges. Consult Refuge manager for specific regulations.



## Bureau of Reclamation

Marks the boundary of lands open to hunting and fishing in accordance with state regulations. Nontoxic shot is not required for upland game.



## US Army Corps of Engineers

Marks the boundary of lands open to walk-in hunting unless otherwise posted as closed. Nontoxic shot is not required for upland game.



## Bureau of Land Management

Marks the boundary of lands open to hunting and fishing in accordance with state regulations. Nontoxic shot is not required for upland game.



## US Forest Service

Marks the boundary of lands open to hunting and fishing in accordance with state regulations. Nontoxic shot is not required for upland game.

*The North Dakota Game and Fish Department compiled these maps according to conventional cartographic standards, using the most reliable information available. The Department does not guarantee freedom from errors or inaccuracies and disclaims any legal responsibility or liability for interpretations made from these maps, or decisions based thereon. The colors of land features may look slightly different when covered by water.*

# Sunrise and Sunset Times

AUGUST			SEPTEMBER			OCTOBER			NOVEMBER			DECEMBER			JANUARY, 2014		
Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Date	Sunrise	Sunset
11	6:36	9:00	1	7:03	8:22	1	7:42	7:22	1	8:26	6:27	1	8:08	4:57	1	8:28	5:06
12	6:37	8:58	2	7:04	8:20	2	7:44	7:20	2	8:27	6:25	2	8:09	4:56	2	8:28	5:07
13	6:39	8:56	3	7:06	8:18	3	7:45	7:18	Central Standard Time			3	8:10	4:56	3	8:28	5:08
14	6:40	8:55	4	7:07	8:16	4	7:46	7:16	3	7:29	5:24	4	8:11	4:56	4	8:28	5:09
15	6:41	8:53	5	7:08	8:14	5	7:48	7:14	4	7:30	5:23	5	8:12	4:55	5	8:28	5:10
16	6:43	8:51	6	7:10	8:12	6	7:49	7:12	5	7:32	5:21	6	8:13	4:55	6	8:28	5:11
17	6:44	8:50	7	7:11	8:10	7	7:50	7:11	6	7:33	5:20	7	8:14	4:55			
18	6:45	8:48	8	7:12	8:08	8	7:52	7:09	7	7:35	5:18	8	8:15	4:55			
19	6:46	8:46	9	7:13	8:06	9	7:53	7:07	8	7:36	5:17	9	8:16	4:55			
20	6:48	8:44	10	7:15	8:04	10	7:54	7:05	9	7:38	5:16	10	8:17	4:55			
21	6:49	8:42	11	7:16	8:02	11	7:56	7:03	10	7:39	5:15	11	8:18	4:55			
22	6:50	8:41	12	7:17	8:00	12	7:57	7:01	11	7:41	5:13	12	8:19	4:55			
23	6:52	8:39	13	7:19	7:58	13	7:59	6:59	12	7:42	5:12	13	8:20	4:55			
24	6:53	8:37	14	7:20	7:56	14	8:00	6:57	13	7:43	5:11	14	8:21	4:55			
25	6:54	8:35	15	7:21	7:54	15	8:01	6:56	14	7:45	5:10	15	8:22	4:55			
26	6:55	8:33	16	7:23	7:52	16	8:03	6:54	15	7:46	5:09	16	8:22	4:56			
27	6:57	8:31	17	7:24	7:50	17	8:04	6:52	16	7:48	5:08	17	8:23	4:56			
28	6:58	8:30	18	7:25	7:48	18	8:06	6:50	17	7:49	5:07	18	8:24	4:56			
29	6:59	8:28	19	7:26	7:46	19	8:07	6:48	18	7:51	5:06	19	8:24	4:57			
30	7:01	8:26	20	7:28	7:44	20	8:08	6:47	19	7:52	5:05	20	8:25	4:57			
31	7:02	8:24	21	7:29	7:42	21	8:10	6:45	20	7:53	5:04	21	8:25	4:57			
			22	7:30	7:40	22	8:11	6:43	21	7:55	5:03	22	8:26	4:58			
			23	7:32	7:38	23	8:13	6:41	22	7:56	5:02	23	8:26	4:59			
			24	7:33	7:36	24	8:14	6:40	23	7:58	5:01	24	8:27	4:59			
			25	7:34	7:34	25	8:16	6:38	24	7:59	5:01	25	8:27	5:00			
			26	7:36	7:32	26	8:17	6:36	25	8:00	5:00	26	8:27	5:01			
			27	7:37	7:30	27	8:19	6:35	26	8:02	4:59	27	8:28	5:01			
			28	7:38	7:28	28	8:20	6:33	27	8:03	4:59	28	8:28	5:02			
			29	7:40	7:26	29	8:21	6:32	28	8:04	4:58	29	8:28	5:03			
			30	7:41	7:24	30	8:23	6:30	29	8:05	4:58	30	8:28	5:04			
						31	8:24	6:28	30	8:07	4:57	31	8:28	5:05			

## RAP Program (Report All Poaching)

This program provides people the opportunity to report wildlife violations, remain anonymous if they prefer, and to receive monetary rewards for convictions based on their information. Anonymous callers will be given a special code number and are not required to give their name. Rewards range from \$50 to several hundred dollars depending upon the nature and seriousness of the crime. **Call 1-800-472-2121. Call this number only to report Game and Fish violations.** The reward fund is supported by private donations. If you wish to donate to the RAP program, tax deductible contributions can be sent to R.A.P., Box 188, Valley City, ND, 58072-0188.

## Harvest Information Program (HIP)

All migratory game bird hunters must register annually with the Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP) before hunting ducks, geese, swans, mergansers, coots, cranes, snipe, doves and woodcock. Before your license to hunt is legal you must register by calling toll free 1-888-634-4798. After answering a brief survey you will receive a HIP registration number which must be recorded on your fishing, hunting and furbearer certificate. *(NOTE: If you purchase your hunting license at the Department's Bismarck office, through the Department's website, or over the phone with the toll-free number you are automatically HIP certified. If you participated in the spring snow goose conservation hunt you have already been HIP certified.)* HIP is a US Fish and Wildlife Service program designed to track the harvest of migratory birds for management purposes.

## Road Right-of-Ways

Do not hunt on road right-of-ways unless you are certain that they are open to public use. Most road right of ways are under the control of the adjacent landowner and are closed to hunting when the adjacent land is posted closed to hunting.

**To contact the main office of the  
North Dakota Game & Fish Department  
weekdays – call (701) 328-6300**

District Offices  
Devils Lake ..... (701) 662-3617  
Dickinson..... (701) 227-7431  
Lonetree..... (701) 324-2211  
Riverdale ..... (701) 654-7475  
Jamestown ..... (701) 253-6480  
Williston ..... (701) 774-4320



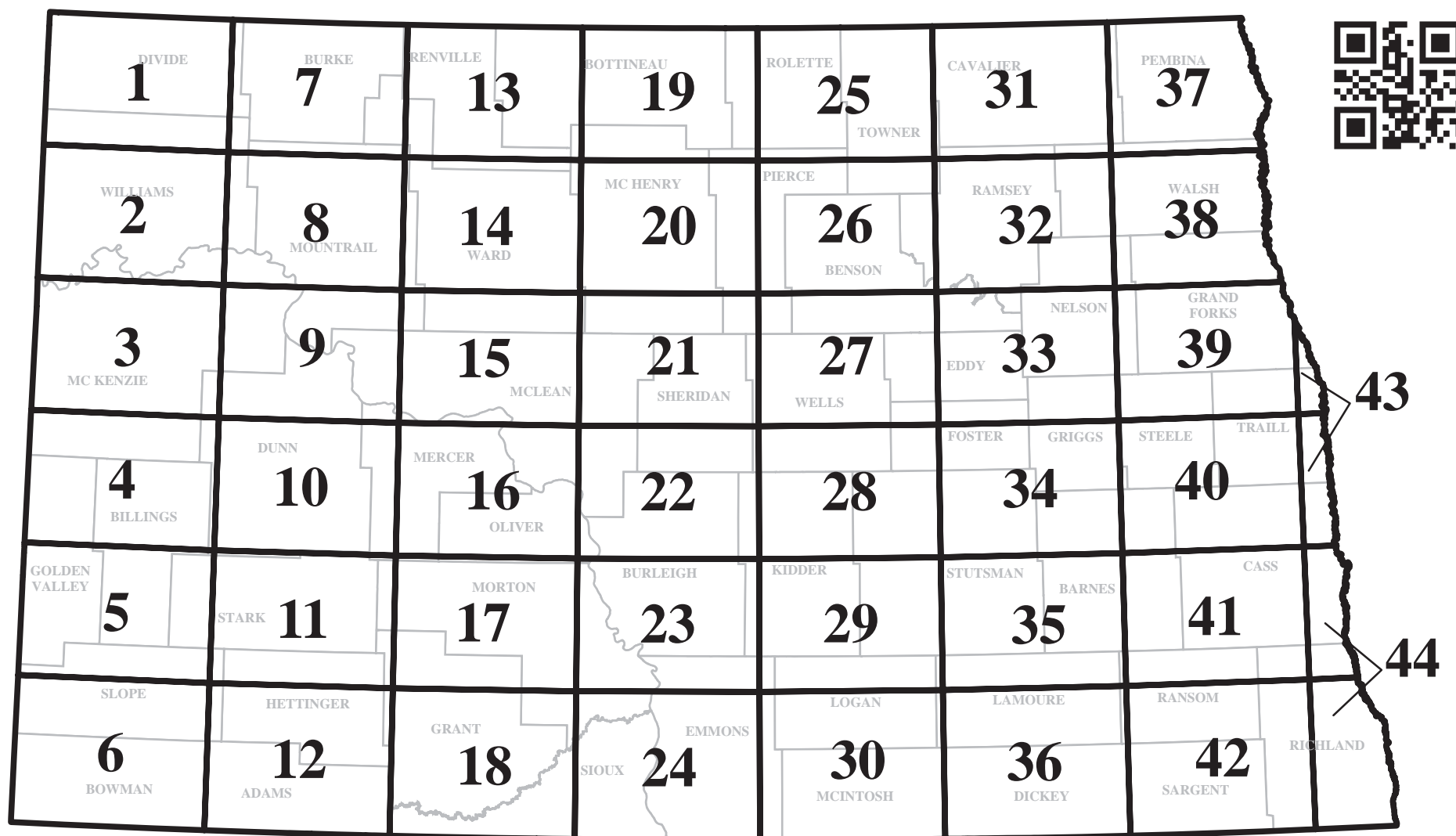
# 2013-2014 Hunting Season General Information

SMALL AND UPLAND GAME	SPECIES	OPENS-CLOSES	DAILY/POSSESSION LIMITS		HUNTING HOURS	WATERFOWL	SPECIES	OPENS-CLOSES	OPENS-CLOSES	DAILY/POSSESSION LIMITS	HUNTING HOURS		
	Spring/Turkey (2014)	See Proclamation	See Proclamation		½ hour before sunrise to sunset		EARLY CANADA GOOSE SEASON	Missouri River Canada goose zone	Aug. 15 – Sept. 7	See proclamation for zone descriptions	15	45	½ hour before sunrise to sunset
	Crows (fall)	Aug. 10 – Oct. 20	No limit on crows				All of ND excluding the above zone	Aug. 15 – Sept. 15					
	Crows (spring 2014)	Mar. 8 – Apr. 20	No limit on crows				Youth waterfowl season	See Proclamation. Note: Species and sex restrictions.					
	Doves	Sept. 1 – Oct. 30	15	45			Ducks						
	Sandhill crane (Unit 1)	Sept. 14 – Nov. 10	3	9	Mergansers								
	Sandhill crane (Unit 2)	Sept. 14 – Nov. 10	2	6	Coots								
	Tree squirrels	Sept. 14 – Jan. 5	4	12	Tundra swans								
	Hungarian partridge	Sept. 14 – Jan. 5	3	12	White-fronted geese								
	Sharp-tailed grouse	Sept. 14 – Jan. 5	3	12	Canada geese								
	Ruffed grouse	Sept. 14 – Jan. 5	3	12	Light geese								
	Snipe	Sept. 14 – Dec. 1	8	24	½ hour before sunrise, to 1 pm CDT Aug. 15 through Nov. 3 ½ hour before sunrise, to 2 pm CST Nov. 4 through end of season (See Proclamation for additional information on shooting hours for geese)								
	Woodcock	Sept. 21 – Nov. 4	3	9									
Male pheasant (regular season)	Oct. 12 – Jan. 5	3	12										
Male pheasant (delayed opener)	Oct. 19 – Jan. 5	3	12										
Youth male pheasant	Oct. 5 – Oct. 6	3	12										
Fall turkey	Oct. 12 – Jan. 5	One turkey as described on license*		½ hour before sunrise to sunset									
BIG GAME	Pronghorn bow	No open season			After the noon opener, ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset	Shaded seasons are proposed only – please check proclamations before going afield.							
	Pronghorn gun	No open season				Mountain lion Zone 1 (limited quota)	Aug. 30 – Nov. 24 Nov. 25 - Mar. 31	(See Proclamation for additional information)	½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset				
	Deer bow (exception - special herd reduction seasons)	Aug. 30 – Jan. 5	Resident: one deer any type* Non-resident: one deer with specific restrictions*			Mountain lion Zone 2 (limited quota)	Aug. 30 - Mar. 31						
	Deer gun (youth)	Sept. 20 – Sept. 29	One deer any type with restrictions in some units*			Beaver and raccoon (hunting, trapping, and underwater snaring)	Open year-round (officially from Apr. 1 through Mar. 31 of each year)	There is no limit on furbearers					
	Deer gun (16-½ day season)	Nov. 8 – Nov. 24	One deer of type described on license*			Red fox, gray fox, coyote, and badger (hunting & trapping)							
	Deer muzzleloader	Nov. 29 – Dec. 15	One white-tailed deer as described on license*			Red fox, gray fox, and coyote (hunting at any hour)	Nov. 25 - Mar. 15						
	Bighorn sheep (bow only)	Oct. 18 – Nov. 7	One male bighorn sheep*		Weasel (trapping)	Oct. 26 – Mar. 15							
	Bighorn sheep (regular season)	Oct. 25 – Nov. 7			Weasel (hunting)	Nov. 25 – Mar. 15							
	Elk (bow only season-E1, E2)	Sept. 6 – Sept. 29	One elk as described on license*	Bobcat (hunting or trapping)	Nov. 9 – Mar. 15								
	Elk (Unit E1)	Oct. 4 – Oct. 31 Nov. 22 – Dec. 8		Fisher, weasel (snaring)	Nov. 25 – Mar. 15								
	Elk (Unit E2)	Oct.45 – Dec. 31		Red fox, gray fox, coyote, badger (snaring)									
	Elk (Unit E3, E4)	Sept. 6 – Dec. 31		See Proclamation for Units E3 and E4 regulations	Bobcat (snaring)	Nov. 25 – Mar. 15							
	Elk (Unit E5)	Sept. 6 – Dec. 31	Open to all lottery license holders from all units	Beaver and raccoon (snaring on land)	Nov. 25 – Apr. 30								
	Moose (bow only season)	Sept. 6 – Sept. 29	One moose as described on license*		Muskrat and mink (hunting)	Nov. 25 – Apr. 30							
	Moose (Units M8, M9, M10)	Oct. 11 – Nov. 3			Muskrat and mink (trapping)	Oct. 26 – Apr. 30							
	Moose (Units M5 & M6)	Nov. 15 – Dec. 8			Muskrat and mink (snaring)	Nov. 25 – Apr. 30							
					Muskrat (trapping-underwater sets)	Mar. 16 – Apr. 30							

In accordance with state law, nonresidents are not allowed to hunt on Game and Fish Department wildlife management areas or conservation PLOTS (Private Land Open to Sportsmen) areas from October 12-18.

\*TAG REQUIRED

# Index to Detailed Map Sheets



## Via the Internet visit our website at [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov)

Regular license fees apply with no service charge added. Applicants must print out their own license, and those without a printer will receive a confirmation number to carry.

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*In addition to the license fee(s), a service charge will be added. Service charge will vary depending on amount of transaction.*

**For additional hunting information visit our website at [gf.nd.gov](http://gf.nd.gov)**

The NDGFD receives federal financial assistance from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the NDGFD joins the US Department of the Interior and its Bureaus in prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex (in education programs or activities) and also religion for the NDGFD. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or you desire further information, please write to: ND Game and Fish Department, Attn: Chief Administrative Services, 100 N. Bismarck Expressway, Bismarck, ND 58501-5095 or to: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Attn: Civil Rights Coordinator, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, Virginia 22203. The TTY/TTD (Relay ND) number for the hearing or speech impaired is 1-800-366-6888.